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Saipan Tribune

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'Break silence on NMI finances'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

With more cuts and belt-tightening measures expected in the coming months, minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) is urging the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to break its silence about the true financial state of the CNMI and tell the Legislature about it.

"The administration should stop the nonsense," Propst said in an interview Tuesday. "It is shameful that they are not discussing how bad things are."

He said that his staff did not get paid after his office's operational funds were cut. "We have no money to pay the vendors or the overtime of employees after Super Ty-

See FINANCES on Page 4

'NO MEANS NO!' Cadets and officers of the Ayuyu Battalion of Kagman High School's Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps take part in the Sexual Violence Awareness March last Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in the village of Kagman III to support Sexual Violence Awareness Month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Apagigi seller belies glass pieces

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture has declined to comment on a social media post claiming that a customer found two glass pieces on an *apagigi* sold by one of the vendors at the 38th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival last weekend.

Apagigi is a Chamorro dessert made from grated coconut and tapioca or cassava.

The poster on Facebook claims that she found the glass pieces in an *apagigi* that was bought from Fong's Bakery at the festival.

CCAC executive director

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Women who robbed Club C now out

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two women who pleaded guilty to robbing the Club C gaming arcade of thousands of dollars' worth of promo vouchers two weeks ago have been released from prison.

Cousins Alvagene and Cherrie Delos Santos, who schemed and robed the Club C gaming arcade of about $7,000, were sentenced yesterday to a five-year imprisonment, all suspended except for the 14 days that they have already served.

The women were released from the Department of Corrections following the sentencing hearing yesterday.

During the sentencing hear-

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OPA: Land leased by Palacios not properly assessed

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

First of two parts

The Office of the Public Auditor has found that the Department of Public Lands and its predecessor agency—the Marianas Public Land Corp.—failed to fulfill its duty on a land leased by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' A&M Corp.

Palacios was authorized to lease Lot No. 057 E 05 that roughly has an area of 2,813 square meters of public land under Lease No. L9104S. He earlier denied that he owes DPL $190,000 in fees.

Saipan Tribune archives quote Palacios in a story that came out last year saying that DPL and its legal counsel have agreed that the amount he allegedly owes is wrong.

Public Auditor Michael Pai recently presented the Office of the Public Auditor's find-

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Is the Galaxy Fold a gimmick or a true breakthrough in the smartphone market?
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The work to rebuild the iconic Notre Dame in Paris will face substantial challenges.
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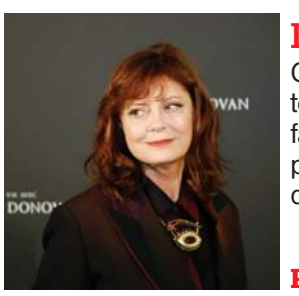

LIFE & STYLE
Celebrities lined up to give money to their favorite Democratic presidential candidates.
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Local

Tapochau ready for Good Friday

The road going up Mt. Tapochau is ready for Good Friday.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang noted that, after two weeks of preparation, Mt. Tapochau Road is ready for the pilgrims expected to take part in the trek up the mountain as part of the annual observance of Good Friday.

"We are already finished with preparations and people should be setting up tomorrow for the trek [today]," said Apatang, recognizing that there are a few who start the trek very early on the morning.

The usual groups such as the United Filipino Organization, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, and even the CNMI Office of the Governor would be handing out refreshments along the path.

"This is an annual thing we do for Good Friday. We have been getting a lot of support from businesses as far as water and fruits are concerned," he said.

The mayor's office made the road smoother by first installing a base course, then compressing it.

"We got about 10 loads [for the road]," he said.

The office also rented a compacter and a water tanker. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

'Chinese interpreters most requested; Filipino the least'

Chinese language interpreters are the most requested in the CNMI Superior Court, while Filipino or Tagalog interpreters are the least requested, according to the NMI Judiciary's Language Access Plan and Policy.

An analysis conducted on case filings and services required in the Superior Court during calendar years 2012 through 2014 showed these results, according to the LAPP.

It said the Chinese language interpreters was the most requested over the three-year period at 87 percent, followed by Chuukese at 7 percent, Thai at 4 percent, and Filipino at 2 percent.

English, Chamorro, and Carolinian are officially recognized as the languages for conducting business in the CNMI.

LAPP said the other languages in the CNMI include Japanese, Kosraean, Korean, Marshallese, Palauan, Pohnpeian, Vietnamese, Yapese, and American sign language.

The LAPP was one of the exhibits that the Office of the Public Defender recently filed in court in support of its motion for a Filipino or Tagalog interpreter for Alfonso Sebastian Parongan, a suspect in the murder of his landlord in 2017.

Assistant public defender Heather M. Zona had questioned the court's act requiring the OPD to provide the Tagalog interpreter. She argues that assigning OPD the task of finding interpreters violates both Commonwealth law and Parongan's constitutional and civil rights. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Hearing pushed back for man who tried to jump off building

The preliminary hearing for Jordan Tudela, the man who threatened to kill himself in December by jumping off a building, was pushed back because of ongoing negotiations to resolve the case without going to trial.

The preliminary hearing for Tudela, 36, which was initially set for April 16, was pushed back to May 22 because defense and the prosecution are currently negotiating the terms of a possible plea agreement.

If terms are agreed on, a preliminary hearing would not be necessary anymore because a sentence would be ready to be imposed.

Tudela, who threatened to jump off a three-story building in Chalan Kanoa in December 2018, has been charged with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, child abuse, and disturbing the peace. He was allegedly caught sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl in Chalan Kanoa.

According to court information, Tudela's girlfriend and the alleged eyewitness of the assault told police that she caught Tudela sexually molesting the 11-year-old girl in their home in Chalan Kanoa.

The eyewitness told police that she panicked and ran out of the room and immediately called police for assistance. Tudela reportedly left the house prior to the arrival of Department of Public Safety officers.

The 11-year-old victim later allegedly told police that Tudela had threatened to kill her family if she reports what he did to her.

Tudela allegedly begged his girlfriend not to report the matter to authorities, and that she reported the incident nonetheless, prompting him to climb atop a building and threaten to jump off. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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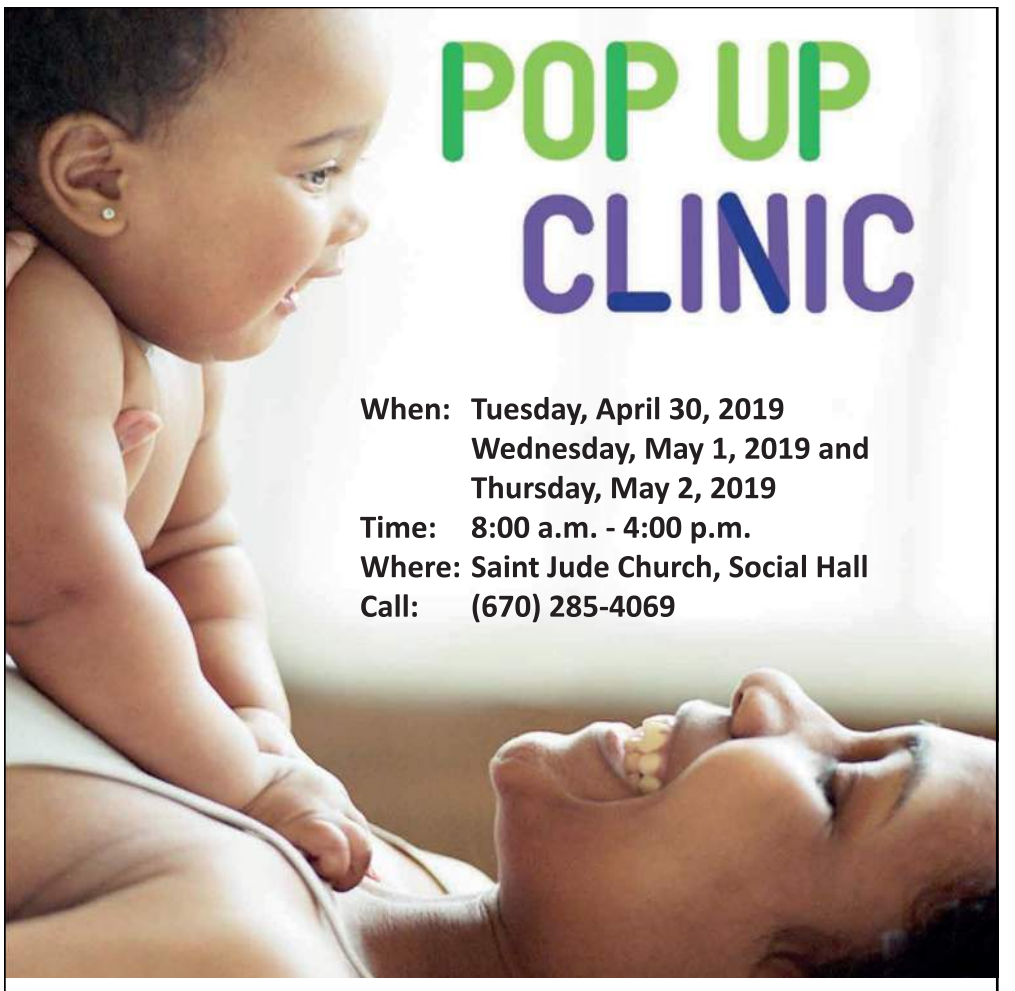
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Guerrero is sworn in as DPS chief

DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero takes his oath of office, administered by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, far right.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

The bulk of the Department of Public Safety force came out Tuesday to support reappointed DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero as he took his oath of office.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero was officially sworn in Tuesday to serve his second term at the helm of the islands' police force.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho officiated Guerrero's swearing in and reminded everyone present that the oath of office is taken by all who serve the CNMI to pledge their loyalty to the people of the Commonwealth.

"The oath of office is imbedded into the CNMI constitution and there's a special reason why that is. No governor, no senator, no congressman, no mayor, no judge, not even a commissioner can change the Constitution; only the people of the Commonwealth can change the Constitution. So, when you take this oath of office, you bind yourself, you commit your…loyalty [to] the Commonwealth and the people of the Commonwealth. If you're ever in doubt where your loyalty should be, first and foremost, it should be with the people of the Commonwealth," he said.

Following the oath-taking, Guerrero said that he appreciates the amount of trust that was placed in his leadership and looks forward to the challenges of the next four years.

Guerrero added that he looks forward to further improvements at the department in his next term.

"Of course, we still have a lot of work to do for the department to work even more efficiently because there's always room for improvement. We want to continue what works. We've been working on our physical fitness for our officers, our service training, [and] we have the academy coming up," he said.

Guerrero was reappointed DPS commissioner last week by the CNMI Senate's Executive Appointments and Government Investigation Committee.

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48 dogs, cats spayed, neutered on Tinian

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nearly 50 cats and dogs were either spayed or neutered during a free two-day clinic on Tinian, according to Saipan Cares for Animals.

The animal welfare group told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that a total of 48 cats and dogs were spayed (for females) or neutered (for males) at the Tinian Youth Center over the weekend.

SCA president Beth Pliscou described the 48 surgeries within two days as a "huge amount." She thanked Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan's assistance.

Next up is a spay and neutering clinic on Rota. It is going to be a four-day clinic starting this Sunday, April 21, to Wednesday, April 24.

Pliscou is coordinating the outreach with Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig

Pliscou added that she is planning a second trip to Tinian.

"The Tinian mayor made it really great when we went there and we were able to do a lot of surgeries. I would really like to go back in about a month," she said.

Logistics such as the rental car and the hotel rooms for the veterinarian and the SCA staff were handled by the Tinian Mayor's Office. A similar set up is being arranged for the Rota visit.

The Rota clinic would be accepting both cats and dogs.

"Cats can have three litters of kittens a year. That could be like 30 kittens a year that one cat can produce," she said.

Aldan told *Saipan Tribune* that SCA staff reached out to his office about two weeks ago to set up the clinic.

"We assisted in providing a space for them to operate, [as well as lent] staff from the Tinian Dog Control," he said.

OPA

From Page 1

ings in a letter to DPL Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo and CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan dated April 11.

"The objective of this inspection is to examine DPL's revised billing as prepared on Aug. 1, 2018, and determine if DOL properly assessed and collected lease rental fees in accordance with the terms of the lease and it's amendments," said Pai in the letter.

He noted that the results of the inspection are not unique to just one particular lease but is systemic in how DPL leases out public lands—as evidenced in an OPA report published last July 17, 2018.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Teregeyo on the OPA report yesterday but she has yet to respond as of press time,

Based on the OPA assessment, it found two DPL failings in its handling of Lease L9104S:

- not properly assessing and collecting the lease rental fees in accordance with the terms of the lease and its amendments by not enforcing the timely submission of required documents;
- not taking into account the date that an adjacent parcel was physically utilized or encroached upon by the lessee prior to the second amendment to the lease agreement.

This encroachment was known to DPL and its predecessors—the Marianas Public Land Corp. and the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Public Lands," said Pai. "However, previous management did not address the encroachment or pursue timely lease amendments, which complicates the accurate assessment of fees and inhibits DPL from achieving its mandate to collect all funds from public lands."

Background

OPA's review began on July 10 last year when the OAG requested them to review and assess the calculation made by DPL on the rental fees from Lease No. L9104S. The OAG presented two different calculations done by DPL, through their direction.

Lease No. L9104S' lease agreement was executed on Dec. 14, 1990 where Palacios was granted authority to lease Lot No. 057 E 05. An amendment was done on Article 5 of the lease agreement on April 28, 1992 where the rental fee was reduced based on eight percent of the leasehold value.

The MPLC then issued a memo to the board on Aug. 24 of the same year that the lessee requested to lease an additional 1,718 square meters of public land, Lot No. 057 E 15—adjacent to their current leased property. The memo also said Lot. No. 057 E 05 was resurveyed and renamed Lot No. 057 E 18 with a reduced estimated area of 2,783 sqm.

The MPLC board on Dec. 3, 1992, approved the lessee's request and approved the additional 2,000 sqm.

"MPLC, however, did not amend the existing lease agreement or execute a separate lease agreement to reflect the change in lot numbers and size, and the use of the adjacent parcels. DPL did not authorize the use of the adjacent parcels until the Second Amendment," stated in the OPA report.

It was only on Oct. 31, 2014—with a year left to the 25-year lease agreement—when the second amendment was executed. The amendment showed the change in the lot number from Lot 057 E 05 to Lot 057 E 18, including the reduced area of 2,873 square meters.

"The second amendment also included the adjacent parcels containing 2,000 [square meters] that was approved 22 years prior by the MPLC board in 1992, plus an additional 1,790 [square meters] (Lot No. 057 E 15 and Lot No. 057 E 29). As such, the total estimated area granted to the lessee per the second amendment was 6,573 [square meters]," states the OPA report.

The Office of the Attorney General recommended to DPL on April 19 last year to charge the lessee for the adjacent parcels of land retroactively to 1992, to follow the provisions on the second amendment—stating that the lessee submit written requests to amend the lease to take effect on Nov. 30, 1992, as approved by the former MPLC.

"By doing so, the amount owed by the lessee increased to approximately $1 million, most of which is attributed to interest compounded monthly," said the OPA report.

The OAG then issued a revised memorandum after receiving an affidavit from DPL's Compliance Division and a discussion with the lessee on June 8, 2018. The revised memorandum suggested that DPL adjust the charges for the adjacent parcels retroactively to Nov. 1, 2014, which was the effectivity date of the second amendment—therefore lowering to approximately $185,000 the amount owed by the lessee.

An earlier report quoted Palacios as saying that DPL and its legal counsel have recently agreed that the amount he allegedly owes is erroneous.

"A revised amount has been produced that, while significantly lower, I still believe is in error," said Palacios, adding that the dispute continues and that he is engaged in mediation with DPL about the amount.

In a letter dated March 26 responding to the OPA's draft report, Teregeyo said the $185,000 amount was based from a memo that was also dated on June 8 of last year.

"I assert and maintain that the guidance for the calculation was from the privileged attorney-client memo date June 8, 2018, from DPL legal counsel, assistant attorney general Matt Pugh to myself, with cc-copies to Evelyn Sablan, director of Finance, and Greg Deleon Guerrero, director of Compliance."

She also said that rental, holdover, and interest fees were properly assessed and collected, and included a ledger.

FINANCES

From Page 1

phoon Yutu. …People who are still travelling at this time of austerity shocks me. …Ranking officials should stop their travel, even the governor."

He added that the allotment reduction for the Legislature clearly shows that things are financially bad for the CNMI. "The information on how things are difficult should be privy to all. We did not meet the projections for the budget and this is in large part due to [Imperial Pacific International] not paying the [Business Gross Revenue Tax]."

In its 2018 annual report, IPI reported revenue of almost $416 million compared to the over $993 million it collected in 2017.

Propst said the Legislature needs to get information like this to enable lawmakers to do their job of managing the government's finances. He also lamented the lack of information from the Finance Department. "So, how much is it [IPI's profit and the BGRT paid]? Our questions are not yet answered by Finance."

"That's why I'm considering asking the House Gaming Committee chair, Rep. Ralph Yumul, to conduct an oversight [hearing] on the Commonwealth Casino Commission. Some people are not being truthful with their statements."

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said that they have received reports from the Office of Management and Budget that the April allotment of each House of Representatives member would be reduced from $7,500 per month to $3,000.

"Worse, the April deposit hadn't even been made yet and we're having difficulty getting clear answers from either OMB or Finance about what allotment would come in," she said. "Some members had to send their staff home [Monday]. The staff were supposed to be paid, but there were insufficient funds to pay them."

She described as illegal the reduction in the Legislature's allocation. "[It's] way beyond the proportionate across-the-board reduction that the governor ordered. That's a 60-percent cut to our operational budget for each member."

"And if the governor is planning to implement a much larger proportionate reduction, he has to notify us first. That's required by the Planning and Budgeting Act. There's a process, and that process was not followed."

Sablan said this is the second time in two months that the Torres administration attempted to impose drastic and "illegal cuts on the Legislature."

The Torres administration had proposed a $233.22-million budget for next fiscal year. The amount available for appropriation is $147 million, a 9.7-percent decrease from last fiscal year's budget of $258 million—a difference of $24.9 million.

WOMEN

From Page 1

ing at the Superior Court, family and friends of Alvagene and Cherrie spoke on behalf of the two, saying that the two are good people who made bad decisions. They pleaded with the court to impose a light sentence and give the women a chance to make amends and do better out of prison.

According to the sentencing memorandum filed by assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas, the lawyer for the government, the prosecution had recommended that Alvagene serve at least nine months out of a possible sentence of five years and for Cherrie to serve at least six months of a possible five-year sentence.

However, their sentences eventually came down to credit for the time they have already served since entering a guilty plea back on April 3; the rest of their sentence was suspended.

Camacho noted that both women did not have any prior convictions related or non-related to the case.

Both women were also sentenced to probation for three years and required to pay all court costs, fines, and restitution to the victim.

Both women were charged with conspiracy to commit theft and theft. They pleaded guilty to the theft charge only; the conspiracy to commit theft charge was dropped as part of the plea agreement.

Both women admitted their roles in the theft and confessed to splitting about $7,000 between themselves.

Alvagene admitted that, as a cashier supervisor of the establishment, she printed over $3,200 worth of promo vouchers, contacted Cherie to come by the gaming establishment, and gave her the printed vouchers to play and cash out.

Cherie admitted that she was contacted by Alvagene to meet her at the Club C and she'd give her vouchers to play and they could split the winnings.

Cherie told the court that she played the vouchers, cashed out her winnings of over $7,000, and they split the money, as per arrangement.

SELLER

From Page 1

Parker Yobei declined to comment on the post but did speak in an interview, saying he had already reached out to Fong's Bakery, who disputed the claim, saying all the *apagigi* they sell are hand-made.

"I am not going to comment…because the [Bureau of Environmental Health] took over as well as the Attorney General's Office…just to get to the bottom of this," he said.

Fong's Bakery general manager Maggie Mendoza told *Saipan Tribune* that she believes the post is an attack on the bakery "to destroy the company's reputation."

If there really was a piece of glass in the *apagigi* mix, Mendoza said would have known at once since the products are all hand-made and she is the only one who makes them.

According to Mendoza, people from BEH reportedly showed up at her bakery last Saturday, April 13, to investigate the bakery. She demonstrated how she makes the *apagigi* the bakery sells.

"Only I make the *apagigi* since I use a secret recipe for it," she said, adding that she does not let her employees make the *apagigi*. "If they found something suspicious they should've shut us down right there and then," she said, yet the bakery was not shut down.

Mendoza further noted that she was told that the bakery could sue the Facebook poster, a certain Richiko Langu, who posted in a buy-and-sell group on Facebook that she "found two small pieces of glass" in the *apagigi* she bought at the Flame Tree Arts Festival last weekend.

"I only felt it once I took a bite. Right after I broke it in half, there was a bigger piece sticking to it. This is so not right!" she posted after naming both the bakery and the festival. "Just a warning, please be careful out there."

$20K from Century Tours donated to HANMI tourney

Century Tours has joined the growing list of sponsors for the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament, offering a $20,000 cash hole-in-one prize for the tournament on May 11, 2019, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

The tournament is open to the first 144 paid registrants and follows a blackjack double Peoria format. Cash, cars, hotel night stays, and other prizes await the winners. The early bird tournament fee is $100 for those who register by next Friday, April 26, at 5pm.

"We all know that our local tourism industry has taken a hit from Super Typhoon Yutu, but Century Tours has been just as generous with their sponsorship this year, as in years past," said tournament chair Steve Balakrishna. "We truly thank them for their support and commitment to HANMI and community organizations we support through their hole-in-one sponsorship."

Additional hole-in-one prizes include a 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross from Triple J Motors, $20,000 from LT Travel, and $5,000 from Pacifica Insurance.

The fee increases to $120 after the early bird deadline. The fee includes green fee and the awards banquet. For an additional $30, players may also compete for optional play prizes, including Accurate Drive on Line (#9), Accurate Drive Circle (#5), Aggressive Drive (#12), Longest Drive (#18), and Nearest to the Pin (#3, #7, #13, #17). The tournament will start at 7am and the awards banquet will be held the same day at 6pm at Grandvrio Resort Saipan. Registration forms are now available at: Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, or www.facebook.com/HANMI670.

For more information, contact Balakrishna at steve.balakrishna@picsaipan.com or 1 (670) 234-7976 or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670. ***(HANMI)***

Century Tours presents $20,000 to the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands on March 12, 2019, as a hole-in-one prize for the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament to be held on May 11, 2019, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. From left, tournament committee member Glenn Policare; staff and operations manager Rain Bao of Century Tours; tournament committee chairman Steve Balakrishna; committee members Franco Santos, Steve Jung, Das Krishnan; HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh; committee member Socorro Huliganga; and staff of Century Tours. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IPI denies engaging in unlawful employment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has denied the allegation of a former VIP services host at its Imperial Pacific Resort and Casino that it has engaged in any unlawful employment practices.

In IPI's answer to former VIP services host Shirlene Loh's amended lawsuit, IPI counsel Kelley M. Butcher said that the company acted in good faith and had reasonable grounds for believing its actions were in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Loh, a citizen of Singapore, is suing IPI for alleged FLSA violation: unpaid minimum wage and unpaid overtime compensation.

Loh asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold IPI liable to pay her the minimum wage owed and her share of tips designated for VIP hosts.

She has accused IPI of siphoning off the tips.

She also demanded payment for liquidated and punitive damages, attorneys' fees and court costs.

Loh was with IPI from Oct. 15, 2015, to August 2016.

In IPI's answer, Butcher said that IPI has not engaged in intentional unlawful employment practices in Loh's case, and that IPI cannot be made liable for punitive/liquidated damages.

She also insists that Loh was properly paid for all hours worked, including overtime pay.

She said Loh failed to exhaust her administrative remedies before filing the lawsuit.

Butcher asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit in its entirety and hold Loh liable to pay IPI its court cost and attorney's fees.

Last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona approved a consent judgment that requires Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. and its subsidiary, IPI, to pay the U.S. Department of Labor a total of $3.36 million to resolve a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Labor Department.

$359,537 awarded to Guam to help families conserve energy

The Guam Energy Office was recently awarded $213,233 in program funds for the 2019 Weatherization Assistance Program from the U.S. Department of Energy.

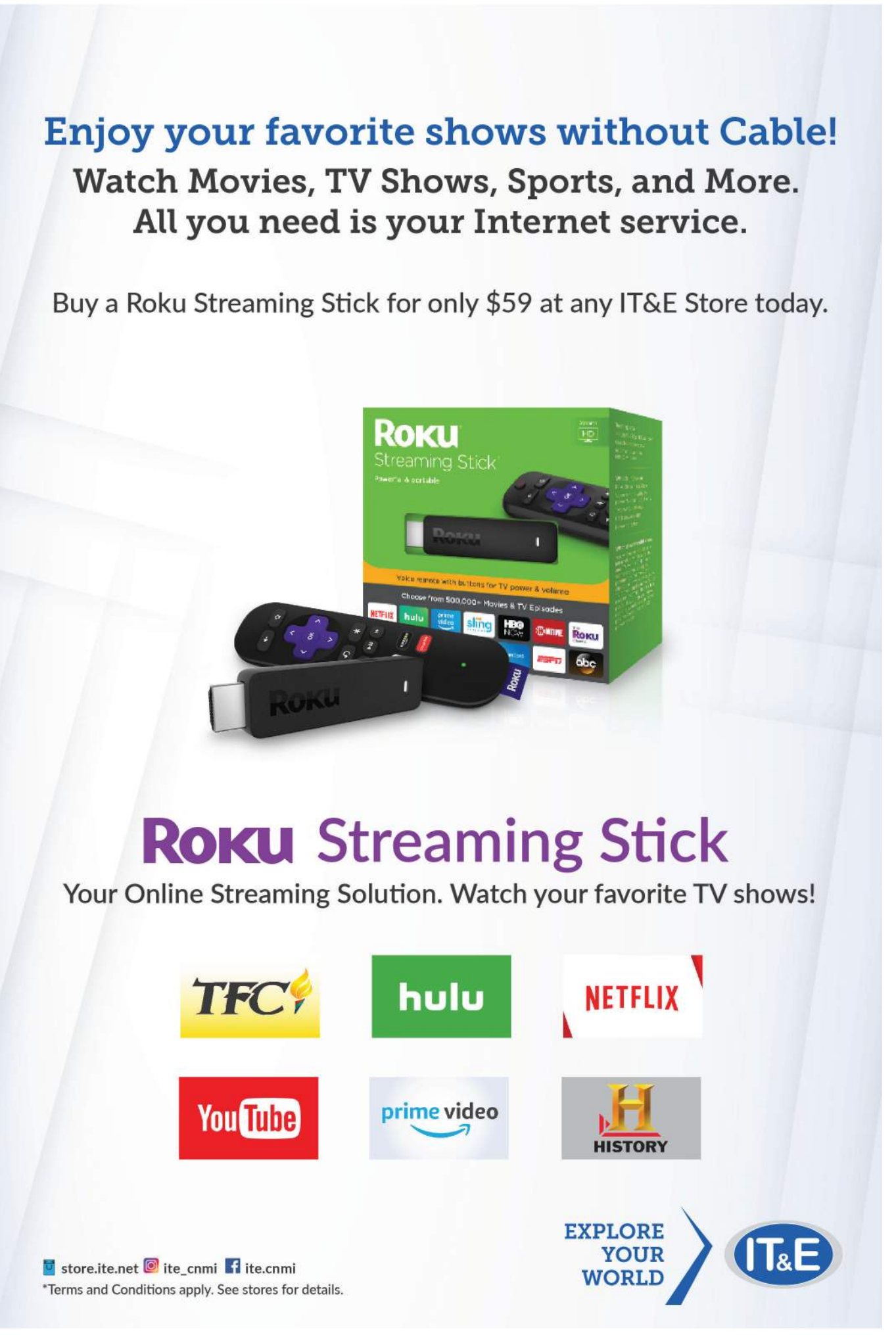
In addition to this amount, $146,304 in funds from a previous program year was authorized for continued use through March 31, 2020.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a federally funded annual program that helps reduce energy costs for eligible low-income households by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety.

The program allows for the replacement of refrigerators, window air conditioning units, light bulbs, and the installation of smoke/carbon monoxide detectors.

Upon qualification, priority is given to the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and families with children.

WAP services are free to households meeting criteria based on total household income and acceptable housing. To qualify, the total household income shall not exceed the maximum income as stated on a chart, which can be found on the website at energy.guam.gov/programs-2 or call GEO at 646-4361. ***(PR)***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National Park Week at American Memorial Park

On Saturday, April 20, everyone is invited to join American Memorial Park from 9am to 12pm to celebrate Junior Ranger Day and help kick off National Park Week.

In addition to featuring the art created by participants during the annual Art-in-the-Park program, the community is welcome to join artists in several art stations. There will also be a, "chalk walk" from 9am to 11am. All ages are invited to create masterpieces along portions of the park's sidewalks in chalk. Join Pacific Historic Parks as they lead this interactive activity.

Youths of all ages will also have the opportunity to become junior rangers. Throughout the morning visit the ranger station and pick up a junior ranger booklet. Those who complete the activity become American Memorial Park Junior Rangers and receive a special badge.

For those who want to know more about national parks across the United States, join park rangers throughout the week to view featured park films and discover our amazing national treasures. For special film showings our schedule will run as follows:

■ **SATURDAY, APRIL 20**

• 3pm, The Crown of the Continent, Katmai National Park and Preserve

• 3:30pm, Island of Hope, Island of Tears, Ellis Island

• Sunday, April 21: Monday, April 22:

■ **TUESDAY, APRIL 23**

• 3pm, A Glorious Journey, John Muir National Historic Site

• 3:30pm, ...into Forgetfulness, John Muir National Historic Site

• 3pm, Struggle and Triumph: The Legacy of George Washington Carver, George Washington Carver National Monument

• 3:30 pm, Voices of Sitka, Sitka National Historical Park

• 3pm, The Tuskegee Airmen: Sacrifice and Triumph, Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site

• 3:40 pm, Shark Safety, Cape Cod National Seashore

■ **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24**

• 3pm, Yellowstone National Park

• 3:30pm, Hidden Worlds: Carlsbad Caverns National Park

■ **THURSDAY, APRIL 25**

• 3pm, A Restless Giant: The Ever-Changing Nature of Mount Rainier, Mount Rainier National Park

• 3:30 pm, The True Heart of Winter, Denali National Park and Preserve

■ **SATURDAY, APRIL 27**

• 3pm, Homefront Heroes, Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park

• 3:30 pm, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park *(NPS)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Public library closed on Friday

In observance of Good Friday, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed tomorrow, April 19. The library will reopen on Saturday, April 20, from 9am to 4pm. *(PR)*

Calling Class of 1981 high school graduates

Attention to all 1981 graduate(s) of Marianas High School, Dolphins 81, and off-Island graduates in Guam or the U.S. mainland that there will be a class reunion meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2019, starting at 6pm at Tech-NIC Computer Gaming, above Sherwin Williams across Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road. *(PR)*

Culture Day today at KHS

Kagman High School is inviting the community of Saipan to its Cultural Day celebration today, April 18, from 10am to 2pm. Come and celebrate the cultures in the CNMI. *(PR)*

Emergency water outage on Beach Road yesterday

There was an emergency water service interruption yesterday, April 17, for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers along Beach Road, Garapan.

The cause of the interruption was due to a break in a 6-inch water mainline on Beach Road, Garapan fronting the Marianas Medical Center. Water operations personnel made the necessary repairs and were expected to complete their work yesterday at 6pm. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services soon after.

As a result of the repair, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. *(PR)*

Transfer station, landfill closed Friday

In observance of Good Friday, the Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi landfill will close on Friday, April 19, 2019. Both facilities will open on Saturday, April 20, 2019. *(PR)*

Department of Agriculture phone lines out of service

Telephone lines for the Department of Agriculture's Director's Office, Forestry & Soil Resources, Animal Health/Animal Control, and Agriculture Development Services are currently not in service. Should you need to contact any of these divisions, call the Aquatic & Wildlife Division at 735-3955/56. *(PR)*

USCIS to present naturalization information session in Guam next month

Officials from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will present a free information session to the public about citizenship and the naturalization process in Guam next month.

This session will take place at the Guam Public Library Hagatna branch.

USCIS will provide information about eligibility for citizenship, how to apply online, the English and civics tests, application forms and fees and how to best interact with USCIS about individual cases.

Officials will also discuss ways to avoid becoming a victim of immigration scams and provide agency updates. Free educational materials will be given out, while supplies last.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit uscis.gov or follow it on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis), Instagram (@uscis) and Facebook (/uscis). *(PR)*

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-OGM/MRS-075
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) RETROFITTED WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VAN FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/DPH-CCCP-011
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 22, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM
"COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM EVALUATOR"
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DOL/WIA-070
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JEFFREY T. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY OF LABOR

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP19-JUDICIARY-067
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2019 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"ROOFING TILE REMOVAL AND FINISHING FOR THE GUMA' HUSTISIA, IIMWAL AWEEWE, HOUSE OF JUSTICE SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO **JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ** VIA EMAIL TO john.villagomez@jusitice.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS APRIL 26, 2019** ALL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **APRIL 24, 2019 AT 09:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE GUMA' HUSTISIA ASSEMBLY HALL.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: RFP19-DPL-076
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2019 TIME: 010:00 A.M.

"IMPLEMENTATION SAGE 50 PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MS. MARIANNE C. TEREGEYO, SECRETARY**, VIA FACSIMILE TO (670) 234-3755 OR VIA E-MAIL TO mariannet@dpl.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., APRIL 22, 2019**.

PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULE ON **APRIL 24, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, AT THE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF THE JOETEN DANDAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, SAIPAN.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARIANNE C. TEREGEYO
SECRETARY, DPL

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Wednesday, April 24, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
   - A. Call to Order
   - B. Roll Call
   - C. Adoption of Agenda
   - D. Adoption of Minutes
     1. January 25, 2019 Special Board Meeting
     2. January 31, 2019 Continued Special Board Meeting
     3. February 7, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
   - E. Correspondence

II. Public Comments**

III. Management Reports
   - A. Executive Director's Report
   - B. Acting Chief Financial Officer's Report

IV. Old Business
   - A. Emergency Procurement of Engine and Alternative Power Supply for Rota
   - B. Status of Outstanding Utility Billings
     1. Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
     2. Commonwealth Ports Authority
   - C. Telesource Contract
   - D. Amendment to Human Resources Classification System

V. New Business
VI. Personnel Committee Report
VII. Executive Session*
VIII. Other Related Matters
IX. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

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Atkins Kroll will replace the defective air bag inflator for FREE. Your safety is a top priority at Toyota. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience this recall may cause you. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this urgent recall.

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FREE OIL & FILTER CHANGE*
SATURDAY, APRIL 20 ONLY!

Provided your vehicle is affected by the recall and your airbag has not been changed, we are offering a FREE oil and filter change with a 27-point visual inspection on **Saturday, April 20, 2019 by appointment only.**
Limited space is available. Please call to book your appointment today.

*Terms and conditions apply. Please see a service advisor for more details.

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Plastic art highlights environmental problem with plastic

Ninth grade students of Grace Christian Academy were able to unite environmental science and art in a project where they decorated bulletin boards in the high school building to raise awareness about the problem of plastic.

The assignment in the Environmental Science Class of Geri Rodgers was for the students to either replicate a famous piece or focus on a critically endangered species. The students chose plastic as the featured item for their artwork.

Among the pieces submitted were recreations of Vincent van Gogh's painting, *Starry Night,* and the iconic Japanese woodblock print *The Great Wave Off Kanagawa* by Katsushika Hokusai.

Additionally, the students incorporated geometry by calculating the number of bottle caps and bottles it would take to cover a minimum of 30 percent of the surface area of their rectangular bulletin board. They also wrote a short paragraph about the environmental issue they selected. One group quoted Jacques Cousteau: "Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans."

In a span of two short weeks

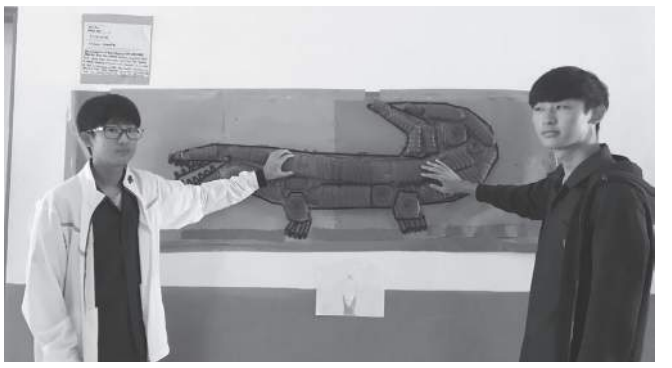
Conrad Bao won second place at the Bridge Capital Art Competition at the 38th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival with his original creation *Dancing Lady*. The ballerina's tutu is made of plastic bags.

A recreation of the iconic Japanese woodblock print *The Great Wave Off Kanagawa* by Katsushika Hokusai.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A recreation of Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*.

A recreation of Vincent van Gogh's painting, *Starry Night*.



students worked together to produce masterpieces. Conrad Bao entered his beautiful, original creation *Dancing Lady*—with the ballerina's tutu made of plastic bags—in the annual Bridge Capital Art Competition at the 38th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival. He won second place.

As the CNMI celebrates Earth Day on April 23, "let us be compelled to seek alternative, sustainable solutions for plastic use so we can be better stewards of God's creation on our beautiful island," said Rodgers in an email. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-018
Koa Lane 6-Inch Waterline Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Koa Ln Waterline Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new 6-inch waterline main and 2-inch service line; connection to the existing water main; installation of gate valve assembly, flush hydrants, air release valves, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by ***Saipan PL 19-23, 19-24, 19-27 and 20-26***.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $150.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-018, Koa Lane Waterline Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered**.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater Acting Chief Engineer via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Birhen Martinez, Water Division, Junior Engineer via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

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MVA goes on the road in north China

On the heels of the 2019 Xi'An Silk Road International Tourism Expo on March 29-31, 2019, in Shaanxi Province, the Marianas Visitors Authority continued it foray into north China with Marianas Roadshows in the cities of Qingdao and Jinan.

Both cities are important travel gateways for the region, where the MVA is extending its promotional efforts to build demand and attract direct air service to the Marianas.

Former MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion attended the Qingdao Road Show, on April 1, 2019, where he delivered welcoming remarks to representatives of local travel agencies, travel trade partners, and media.

The Marianas Visitors Authority holds a Marianas Roadshow on April 1, 2019, in Qingdao, China, with 120 representatives of travel agencies, tourism partners, and media. MVA

"North China is still largely an open frontier for the Marianas, and we are exploring that potential," said MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim. "The Marianas Roadshow gives us an opportunity to introduce the rich tourism resources of the Marianas and give updates on our industry to key decision makers in the region."

With established presence in key China markets such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, the MVA continues to target new markets in the country.

Tourism partners Brighten Travel, TDI, Centours, Incheon International Airport, Asiana Airlines, Impression Tour, Perfect Travel, Skydive Saipan, Saipan Submarine, DFS, and Hyatt Regency Saipan also took part in the event. ***(MVA)***

'Decriminalizing pot is logical solution'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Continuing to label cannabis users as criminals is not only illogical but no longer works, argues pro-cannabis group Sensible CNMI. Instead, having a system to regulate the emerging industry is the only possible solution, it said.

Sensible CNMI was one of the groups that pushed for cannabis legalization in the Commonwealth, making the CNMI the first U.S. territory to legalize not just the medical use of marijuana but also its recreational use.

That became official in September last year when Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018.

Guam followed suit early this month after Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero signed a bill that would allow medical cannabis in the territory.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune*, Sensible CNMI said that governments like the CNMI and Guam are passing up on the opportunity of benefiting from cannabis if it remains a prohibited substance.

"When we prohibit a substance, especially one as popular and valuable as cannabis, we give up all control of that substance to unregulated markets. …We have no control over who's selling, where they are selling, to whom they are selling to, and what other substances they are willing to sell to customers of any age," the Sensible CNMI statement said.

"As a consequence of our war on cannabis, we have effectively given up controls over every aspect of its production, processing, and marketing to anyone who is interested in the enormous profits that can be made," it added.

With cannabis being on the list of illicit drugs, the prohibition policies in an unregulated market caused some youth to move from using cannabis to other illegal substances, the group argued.

"This has given way to a complete disrespect for the rule of law as it is completely unrealistic thing that we could enforce our current drug laws, when our policies have only served to glamorize and incentivize the drug trade, which can occur anywhere, at any time, and virtually everywhere," they said.

"Our communities are awash in drugs despite the best efforts of local and federal law enforcement, citizens, and organizations. We simply cannot be everywhere all the time and it is silly to think that we can arrest our way out of this conundrum."

Sensible CNMI finds it immoral to deny legal access to marijuana. "In fact, destroying people's lives over their use of a plant that God gave us is the most immoral collusion ever, one that the Catholic Church of Guam has become complacent in, by continuing to advocate for the status quo of arresting and incarcerating our own people."

"Continuing to criminalize cannabis consumers is neither logical nor effective. It is therefore pragmatic for us to move from a system of no controls or regulations, to a system that oversees and regulates where and how cannabis is grown, processed, and sold."

The group said a regulated system would monitor and zone stores that would be licensed to sell in limited operating hours while also requiring to ask consumers for any identification that would show they are of legal age to buy cannabis, "effectively prohibiting the youth from accessing cannabis."

"In effect, we are better protecting our youth through a legally regulated system than [where] we are currently, where anyone can sell them cannabis. This is why in every state that has moved to a regulated system for cannabis has observed youth access and rates either stay the same or decrease."

Inmate's complaint of maltreatment dismissed

The U.S. District Court for the NMI dismissed with prejudice a complaint of an inmate who alleged maltreatment and inhumane conditions at the Department of Corrections.

Dismissal with prejudice means Jesse James Babauta Camacho can no longer refile his complaint in court.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona closed the case.

Last Sept. 18, the court dismissed Camacho's complaint, but gave him 30 days to amend it. That same day, the court's clerk mailed the dismissal order to Camacho at the DOC.

More than 30 days have passed, and an amended complaint has not been filed.

Camacho filed the complaint *pro se* or without a lawyer. He complained that there is no physician or nurse at DOC, medicines are inconsistent and missing, inmates get skin diseases from their uniforms because of how the washers clean the uniforms, among other things.

The court allowed Camacho to amend his complaint last year as he never named which officials he was suing.

Camacho also filed a separate complaint, claiming that he is now a disabled person after he underwent heart surgery in November 2017. He blamed a DOC official and a DOC officer for allegedly causing the delay in his medical treatment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Easter Sunday
BRUNCH
SUNDAY
APRIL 21, 2019
at Kanoa Resort
ENJOY OUR EASTER SUNDAY
BRUNCH BUFFET AT THE ISLA CAFÉ.
Open from 11am~2pm, you can enjoy a delicious variety of local and international dishes paired with a live carving station and bottomless Budweiser & Sparkling Wine.
Kids are welcome to join our free* Easter Egg Hunt!
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

May the spire of Notre Dame Cathedral soon rise again

French President Emmanuel Macron said "a part of us" burned as Notre Dame Cathedral caught fire Monday. Around the world, helpless viewers understood.

The Gothic beauty and solemnity of Notre Dame de Paris, accented by gorgeous stained-glass rose windows, has made spirits soar for centuries. Then in a matter of minutes the cathedral seemed imperiled. Something crumbled in those who watched as its blazing spire teetered and fell.

The cause of the fire appeared connected to an ongoing renovation. Flames devoured much of the roof. And what of the other injuries sustained by Notre Dame? Extensive. Millions worldwide now will root, pray and donate for the cathedral's reconstruction.

All buildings communicate something, in their intended function as well as their appearance. Many places of worship, from the simple to the grand, are special in those regards. Notre Dame is universally revered—by some as a house of God, by others as a triumph of design and construction.

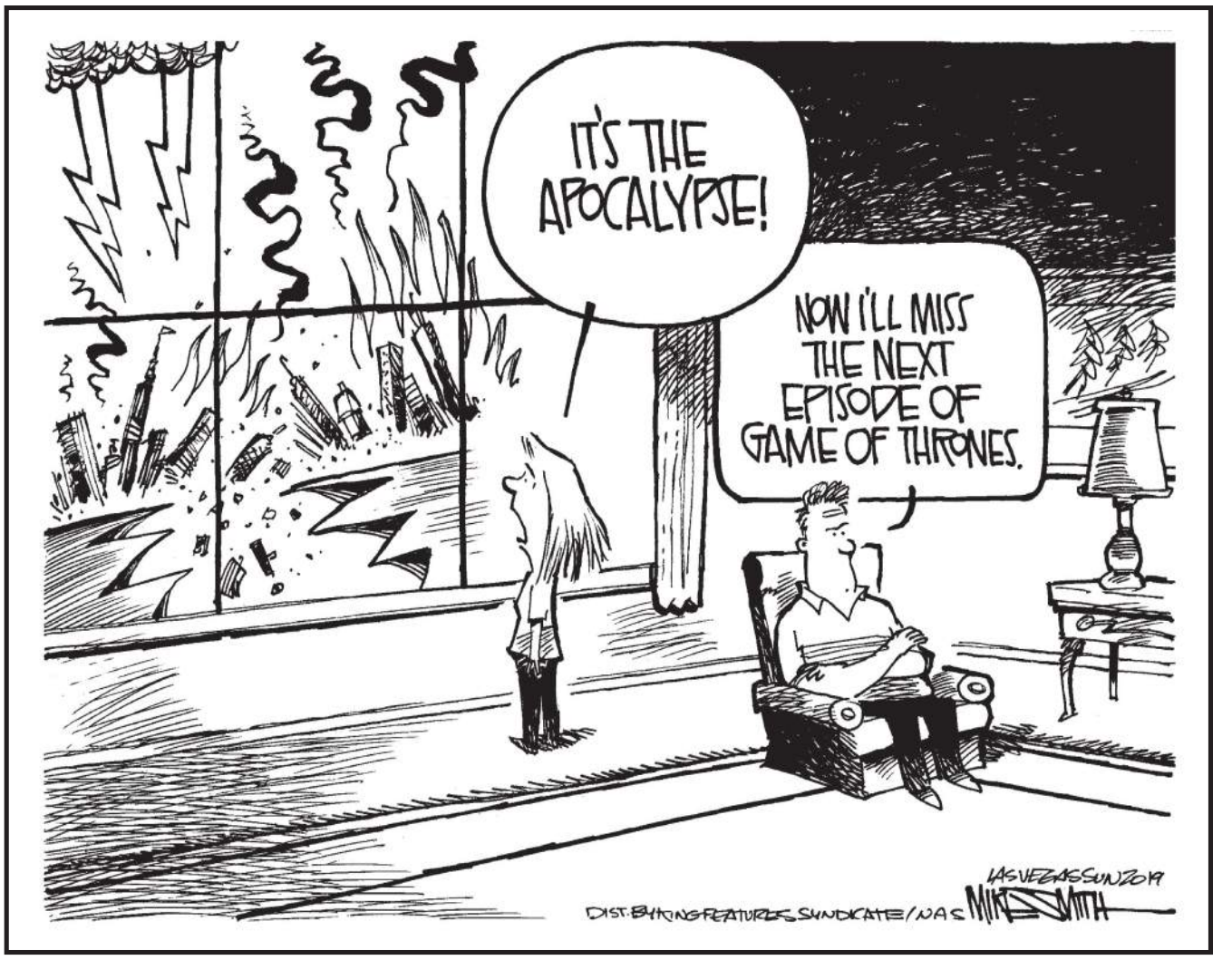
Its architecture is both sturdy and delicate, a symbol of what endures beyond any lifetime, a testament to humanity's highest achievements and aspirations. Rich with images and adorned with gargoyles, its religious story can be grasped outside the bounds of language. The Catholic cathedral, begun in 1163 and completed in 1345, contains some of the first flying buttresses. The fallen spire dated to the 19th century.

The cathedral bells heralded hundreds of years of some of the most studied events in Western civilization. Notre Dame is where Joan of Arc's mother appealed her daughter's conviction for heresy, where Mary, Queen of Scots wed and where Napoleon I and Josephine were crowned. Lovers of literature experience it through Victor Hugo's "The Hunchback of Notre-Dame"—as do young followers of the Disney tale of Quasimodo and Esmeralda. The cathedral was plundered during the French Revolution and has been threatened by terrorists.

The fire broke out on Monday of Holy Week, which draws students and parents on spring and Easter breaks, as travelers hear the call of April in Paris. Some 12 million visitors enter the cathedral each year. As news broke of the fire, many people reflected on past visits and posted photos to social media—a collective reliving of college semesters in Europe, honeymoons, midlife explorations and retirement trips. All were grateful they'd made it to Notre Dame. Those who haven't now must wonder whether they'll get the chance.

Notre Dame is both an irreplaceable icon and a vibrant

See NOTRE DAME on Next Page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Notre Dame fire rocks Paris amid unrest

By RACHEL MARSDEN
Tribune News Service

Rachel Marsden is a columnist, political strategist and former Fox News host who writes regularly for major publications in the U.S. and abroad. Her website can be found at http://www.rachelmarsden.com.

PARIS—The soul of France went up in flames Monday, as Notre Dame de Paris cathedral was swallowed by a blaze just a few days before Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Notre Dame is much more than just a church—it's the epicenter of the history and identity of France, and never more critical as a symbol than right now.

Notre Dame is where Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned emperor on Dec. 2, 1804, at a time when France was a world power and he was conquering the globe on its behalf. It's also where, exactly a year later, after winning the Battle of Austerlitz against the Russian and Austrian armies, he ordered the enemy's captured battle flags to be put on display. Right in front of the cathedral is "Point Zero," from which all the national roads leaving Paris emanate.

Today, Notre Dame represents the cultural and historical roots of a people who feel adrift in a globalized world where they are expected to melt into a European supra-national identity while also acquiescing to a migratory tsunami and its accompanying cultural heterogeneity. The cathedral is a mainstay in a country that has watched as other crown jewels symbolic of French savoir faire have been absorbed by foreign competitors.

The threats aren't just external. Paris has been a powder keg since last fall, when the "yellow vest" movement began—middle- and working-class French taking to the streets to protest a carbon tax increase that raised the cost of fuel. The French government's attempt to shake down workers for a few more centimes under the pretext of some abstract scheme while so many were already struggling to make ends meet was seen as the last straw.

Saturday yellow vest protests have become a weekly event ever since. In January, French President Emmanuel Macron announced a "great debate," with town halls across the country, in an attempt to appease protestors. It hasn't worked.

Macron was supposed to give a televised address about the yellow vests in the moments after the Notre Dame fire had broken out. He postponed. Theoretically, TV networks have ways to handle simultaneous breaking news stories. But perhaps a split screen showing Notre Dame going up in flames alongside Macron going up in flames by spewing more tone-deaf institutional rhetoric to viscerally fed-up French citizens would have been too much.

French elites are fluent in the language of appeasement. They're taught this oratory art in all the highly regarded academies from which French presidents ascend to power. They're experts in high-level rhetoric—mostly as cover for non-action or for bad action.

It may be the result of a generational shift, or simply the fact that people have been waiting far too long for unfulfilled promises to materialize as their situations worsen, but multiple polls now show that the French have barely more than zero faith in their leaders.

It's precisely into this breach—this total lack of faith in authority—that Notre Dame's steeple has fallen. Macron and the French government are now at a crossroads.

As of Tuesday, all we knew about the cause of the blaze was that a police investigation had been opened for "involuntary destruction by fire." This labeling will no doubt spark another fire under those convinced that the authorities are being less than transparent, particularly after the Saint-Sulpice cathedral, located not even a mile away from Notre Dame, was hit by fire just last month. At the time, a police source told the French newspaper Le Parisien: "The fire started from a pile of clothes, and clothes do not ignite alone."

In February, the same newspaper reported a string of at least five attacks on Catholic churches in France in a single week. Father Pierre-Herve Grosjean of the diocese of Versailles wrote on Twitter: "Of all the violence that is shaking our society right now, there are also these: the desecration of our churches, many these days." That was on Feb. 10.

It's entirely possible that Notre Dame, the crown jewel of Catholicism, simply caught fire by some fluke accident a few days before one of the most symbolically important periods in the Catholic faith. It's also entirely in the government's best interest that this indeed be the case, given the current tension between the public and French authorities.

What's important now is that the French government be completely honest about the cause of the fire. Because if there's one thing that could start an even larger blaze than the one that gutted Notre Dame, it's the perception among the French people that their government is being anything less than completely honest with them.

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You say democracy, I say republic

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg View

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg View columnist. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote A Plain Blog About Politics.

One of this age's great crank ideas, that the U.S. is a "republic" and not a "democracy," is gaining so much ground that people in Michigan are trying to rewrite textbooks to get rid of the term "democracy." And the discussion is such a mess that a New York Times article about the fight manages to get it wrong.

The truth is actually simple: For all practical purposes, and in most contexts, "republic" and "democracy" are synonyms. The big difference is that the first comes from Latin and the latter from Greek. To say that the U.S. is a republic, not a democracy, is like claiming to eat beef and pork but not cows and pigs.

The debate may seem like hair-splitting, but it is important in the same way all assaults on knowledge are important – it's part of the never-ending fight against attempted partisan intervention into education, whether it's denying evolution or pretending the Civil War wasn't about slavery. But it's most important because opposing the idea of democracy can be a step toward opposing the reality of democracy, at a time when voting and other structures of formal equality are at risk.

In the Michigan case, the eradication of the word "democracy" is being pushed by conservatives, who want the K-12 social studies curriculum to "be based on a close, originalist reading of the United States' founding documents," according to the Times. Why they care isn't really clear. Perhaps it's in service to ultimate policy goals, but it may just be yet another form of identity politics, setting off True Conservatives from everyone else. At one point, conservatives were equally obsessed with being for "liberty" and not "freedom." Now it's this one.

The fight over language long predates the U.S. itself. Here's how the confusion started: For centuries, European (and eventually American) proponents of popular government looked to the ancient Roman republic for inspiration. It's not that they actually wanted to create a new Rome, but they viewed that era as a symbol of long-lasting non-autocratic government. So the American revolutionaries called what they were creating a republic, even though it really had nothing to do with the actual institutions of Rome. There was no equivalent of Roman consuls or tribunes or a Roman-style Senate. The Founding Fathers did, however, take the names of famous Romans as pen names, and they called the upper chamber of Congress a Senate, and there's a Tiber Creek in Washington.

Since Rome was popular, they used Latin words. So James Madison in Federalist 10 described the good version of popular rule, which employs a "scheme of representation," as a republic, whereas bad government -- "democracy" -- doesn't have the same feature. In fact, the classical world never really had the concept of representation. Madison's vocabulary, which he shared with other 18th century proponents of popular rule, was just a mild form of propaganda. That's all that "a close, originalist reading" will discover. None of this had to do with specific institutions or forms of government. Just word choice.

In the 19th century, Athens became popular, and so politicians such as Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln started calling popular rule "democracy." As with Rome, they weren't actually imitating Athens; they just were associating their goals with a popular civilization.

What Americans in the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st centuries all have in common is that at no time has anything other than some form of democracy/republic gained even a small amount of adherents. Not only has there never been a serious effort to install a monarchy, but there's been no interest in any kind of formal aristocracy, or any national established church that would have political authority. Even supposedly "undemocratic" portions of the Constitution, such as the original Senate (chosen by state legislatures), or the courts, or the Electoral College, are just forms of popular rule, not an alternative to it.

A constant throughout that history are struggles over exactly who would count as "the people." And that's where the words we use for U.S. constitutional government start to matter.

When Madison said the U.S. was a republic and not a democracy he meant (in today's vocabulary) that it was a representative democracy, not a direct democracy. Given that all modern democracies employ a "scheme of representation," that's an unimportant distinction today. But questions about what counts as a democracy – what it means to have popular government – are highly important, and contested, right now. The biggest of those concern who counts as citizens, and ensuring that those who are included as part of "the people" have full citizenship. That's obviously been a long debate, with the franchise sometimes getting expanded (in several constitutional amendments, in the Voting Rights Act, and in other ways) and sometimes contracted (after Reconstruction and during the Progressive era in particular, and at many other times). And advocates for making it easier for everyone to vote and for ensuring political equality argue that democracy requires those measures.

So to say that the U.S. is not a democracy is to at least imply a position on the actual questions about democracy that people debate today. And not just a mild position, such as an argument that democracy does not require, say, early voting or strict one-person, one-vote rules. Instead, to say that the U.S. is not a democracy is to declare the entire debate irrelevant and wrong-headed, even though all but a small fringe in the U.S. believe that it's a democracy.

I don't really know whether the "republic-not-a-democracy" folks are sincerely just misguided pedants or if they are actively trying to use a confusion in the language to place restrictions on voting rights. Either way, they're just plain wrong. In 21st century America, democracy and republic should be used interchangeably.

How did the feds spend your taxes?

By JUSTIN BOGIE and ADAM MICHEL
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

It's nice to have more money in your pocket. And thanks to the 2017 tax cuts, the typical American is now paying less in taxes.

But that's not to say we're not still sending a hefty sum of money to Washington. Tally up all the payroll and other taxes on earnings and income, and you'll find that the average American household forks over more than $26,000 to the feds each year. Last year, Washington collected more than $3.3 trillion in taxes. So where exactly does all that money go?

Some believe most of it goes to foreign aid and defense. Others think corporate subsidies dominate the budget.

In reality, health entitlements—Medicare, Medicaid, Obamacare—and Social Security are the largest and fastest growing programs. Unless Congress fixes these four programs, they—and the ever-growing interest payments on the national debt_ will consume every dollar of taxes paid by 2041. That leaves no money for anything else. Uncle Sam couldn't spend a penny on defense, food assistance, highways or education without driving the country further into debt.

Right now, Medicare, Medicaid and Obamacare subsidies account for more than a quarter (28.8 percent) of all federal spending. Ten years from now, it's projected to gobble up more than a third of the budget.

Meanwhile, Social Security, the single largest federal program, accounts for roughly a quarter of all federal spending all by itself. Its trust funds already pay out more than they take in, and its finances will only deteriorate faster as more and more boomers retire.

The Social Security trustees project that unless Congress implements much needed reforms, the program will run out of reserve funds by 2034, potentially triggering a 23 percent cut in benefits.

Other income security programs—veterans' benefits, food and housing assistance, federal employee retirement, and disability—account for 16 percent of the budget. That's more than we spend on national defense. And the defense budget covers everything from military paychecks to operations overseas to the research, development and acquisition of new technologies and equipment.

At 15 percent of the federal budget, defense spending is the last major category of federal spending. Most of what is left goes to people and corporations who hold Washington's IOUs. Currently, 8 percent of the budget goes to interest payments on this debt.

Over the coming decade, U.S. debt held by the public is projected to balloon to nearly 93 percent of gross domestic product. But don't blame that on "inadequate taxation." By 2024, the pro-growth tax enacted in 2017 will actually raise more revenue yearly than the old system.

No, the culprit here is runaway spending, driven primarily by huge increases in health and Social Security outlays. And the long-term consequences of deficit spending are dire.

Economic growth tends to slow in countries with debts that are as big as their economy. The U.S. is quickly joining this group. As the debt increases, so does the cost of the interest we must pay to those who hold the debt. China is currently the largest foreign holder of U.S. debt.

Left unchecked, growing government spending and historically high levels of debt will ultimately require higher taxes—and just jacking up taxes on the rich won't cut it. Paying for Big Government requires high taxes on middle-class Americans, too.

Eventually, rising debt will leave lawmakers with few options to avoid a financial crisis. Unless we can reverse course, it is only a matter of time before every American will be forced to pay higher income and payroll taxes.

On Tax Day 2019, be thankful for the extra money the 2017 tax cuts deposited in your pocket. But know that, unless we insist that lawmakers suppress their seemingly insatiable appetite to spend, we could all soon be paying much, much more.

Justin Bogie and Adam N. Michel are both senior policy analysts in The Heritage Foundation's Hermann Center for the Federal Budget.

NOTRE DAME

From Page 10

piece of Paris. It is one of the world's most famous attractions, a building that has the power to move visitors with its religious and historical meaning. It is a sacrosanct place of art, architecture and culture. And now it has been ravaged by fire.

As a result, many of us are gutted, too.

If Notre Dame can be rebuilt, let it happen.

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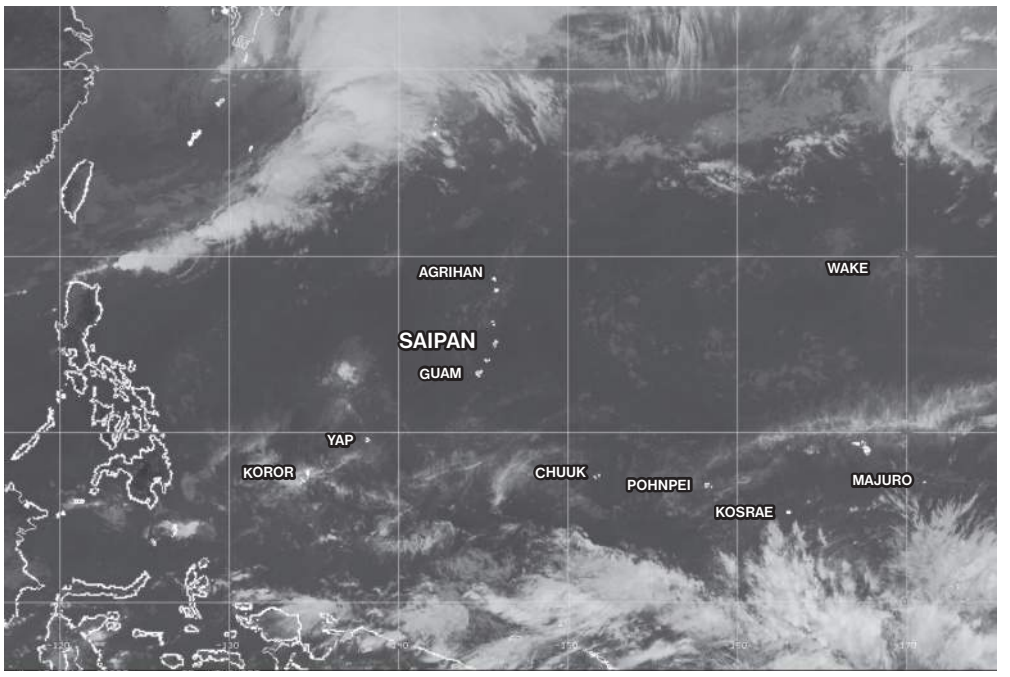
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 78°	89° 78°	88° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:22 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle to moderate trade winds will persist the next several days. Combined seas of 5 to 7 feet will gradually subside to between 3 and 5 feet by Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Showers	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 55°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72° / 46°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	82° / 77°
Honolulu	Sunny	85° / 72°
London	Partly Cloudy	66° / 48°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	80° / 59°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	97° / 81°
Melbourne	Sunny	72° / 50°
Miami	Showers	82° / 78°
New York	Showers	57° / 55°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 46°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	73° / 50°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	72° / 48°
Salem	Cloudy	82° / 59°
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	68° / 43°
Tokyo	Cloudy	70° / 46°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	77° / 66°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:34 AM	LOW TIDE	0.12
06:49 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.06
1:13 PM	LOW TIDE	0.32
7:04 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.97

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:01 AM	5:26 PM
Friday	-	5:47 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	-	6:32 AM	7:22 PM
Sunday	-	7:19 AM	8:19 PM
Monday	-	8:07 AM	9:16 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939:15am		10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

NEW SAMSUNG HANDSET:

Innovation hinges on folding screen

LONDON (AP)—When Samsung said this year it would launch a smartphone with a folding screen, the big question was whether the innovation was something people actually wanted or needed.

Is the Galaxy Fold a gimmick to help sell more smartphones in a slowing market or a true breakthrough that will change how we use our devices?

Major manufacturers have in recent years been largely updating smartphones with marginal improvements like better cameras and face scanning technology, so skepticism has been high.

The South Korean electronics company this week offered the media a hands-on preview ahead of the release in the U.S. this month, and the first impression is that a folding screen in some circumstances might be a useful innovation—but at a cost of almost $2,000 it won't be a mass market product anytime soon.

WHY A FOLDABLE SCREEN?

As people increasingly use their phones to do data-hungry tasks like view photos on Instagram and watch movies or TV shows on YouTube or Netflix, Samsung says the case for a folding phone has become clear: People want bigger screens but they also want a phone they can carry around in their pocket.

Skeptics might say that folding phones are a sign that the smartphone industry has run out of good ideas and fallen into an innovation malaise. Samsung isn't alone. Little known Royole started selling its FlexPai in China last year while Chinese tech giant Huawei announced its own folding phone, the Mate X, days after Samsung's announcement.

OPEN AND SHUT

Closed, the Galaxy Fold is about 6.3 centimeters wide and 16 centimeters long (2.5 by 6.3 inches). It felt like holding a TV remote control, but heavier. The phone's two panels are held shut by magnets, so a bit of force is needed to get it open. With a little practice I was able to do it one-handed by jamming my thumb between the two sections to pop them apart.

Samsung spent nearly five years working on the hinge, which went through more than 1,000 prototypes. It uses cogs and gears to give it a smooth feel and has two open positions. First, it unfolds to 140 degrees—handy if you want to put it down on your desk but still need to angle part of the screen for a video call, for example. Bend it further and the screen silently and solidly opens to a flat position. To close the phone, you click it out of the open position and snap the sides shut.

AP

The Samsung Galaxy Fold smartphone is seen during a media preview event in London, Tuesday April 16, 2019. Samsung is hoping the innovation of smartphones with folding screens reinvigorates the market.

SCREEN TIME

Fully open, there's plenty of real estate on the Galaxy Fold's main screen, which measures 7.3 inches (18.5 centimeters) diagonally. It's great if you want to take and review photos, watch videos or read e-books without squinting. Multi-tasking is also possible with up to three apps open at the same time. Wide open, the Fold felt more like a small tablet than a smartphone, which suggests that one possible market is people who want both kinds of devices but don't want to buy two.

As with anything that folds, there's a crease. It runs down the center of the screen and is visible at certain angles, though I didn't really notice it when using the apps. Samsung developed a new adhesive to glue the composite polymer screen together, and promises it can withstand being opened and closed 200,000 times, or 100 times a day for five years.

The Fold has a second screen, a long, narrow display, on one of its outer panels, so you can continue using apps while it's closed. I tried out a few—YouTube and car racing game "Asphalt"—that transitioned seamlessly between both screens. It could, for example, be useful to consult Google Maps in detail on the big screen before setting off, then put it in your pocket and quickly check the directions en route. But I'm still not convinced that "app continuity" is something I need.

The phone's specs have been available to app makers for a while and the company says most should only need a few tweaks to run properly on its Android operating system. Hundreds of apps have already been "optimized" for the Fold but Samsung won't say how many until it's released.

CAMERAS AND MORE

The Galaxy Fold has no less than six cameras. Three lenses on the rear, another on the cover next to the second screen, and two more inside, including a selfie camera. There's a fingerprint scanner on the right side, which can be used when it's both open and closed. Inside, the battery is split in two, one in each panel, and it has enough juice to wirelessly charge another device, such as the wireless earphones included. It's not clear if the bigger screen needs more power—Samsung hasn't given any battery life estimates, saying only that it may vary.

WHEN

The Galaxy Fold is set for release in the U.S. on April 26, priced at $1,980. It goes on sale in some Europe markets on May 3.

Apple, Qualcomm settle bitter dispute over iPhone technology

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple and mobile chip maker Qualcomm have settled a bitter financial dispute centered on some of the technology that enables iPhones to connect to the internet.

The surprise truce announced Tuesday came just as the former allies turned antagonists were facing off in a federal court trial that was supposed to unfold over the next month in San Diego. The resolution abruptly ended that trial, which also involved Apple's key iPhone suppliers.

The deal requires Apple to pay Qualcomm an undisclosed amount. It also includes a six-year licensing agreement that likely involves recurring payments to the mobile chip maker.

Investors reacted as if it were a resounding victory for Qualcomm. The San Diego company's stock soared 23% to close Tuesday at $70.45. Apple shares edged up 2 cents to $199.25.

Neither Apple nor Qualcomm would comment beyond a brief statement announcing they had resolved their differences. Details about how much Apple and its iPhone suppliers will be paying Qualcomm could emerge in court documents or when the companies announce their latest financial results. Apple is due to report its quarterly results on April 30 while Qualcomm is scheduled to release its numbers on May 1.

Apple had been seeking at least $1 billion for money that Qualcomm was supposed to rebate as part of an earlier licensing agreement. Apple had begun to have misgivings about that deal as it added more features to its increasingly popular line-up of iPhones.

Qualcomm was seeking $7 billion for unpaid royalties it contended it was owed for its patented technology in the iPhone. Apple's iPhone suppliers, including Foxconn and Pegatron, wanted another $27 billion from Qualcomm.

The dispute was clearly beginning to hurt all parties involved, motivating them to settle, said technology industry analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights & Strategy.

"Both Apple and Qualcomm got deeper into this than they wanted to," Moorhead said.

United Airlines' profit doubles despite shutdown, 737 woes

DALLAS (AP)—United Airlines said Tuesday that its first-quarter profit doubled to $292 million as it carried more passengers and limited costs other than fuel.

The results beat Wall Street expectations for a quarter that began with the partial government shutdown, which dinged travel by federal employees, and ended with Boeing 737 Max jets grounded around the world.

The airline gave an upbeat forecast of second-quarter revenue trends. However, Chicago-based United did not raise its full-year earnings prediction.

Executives of parent United Continental Holdings Inc. are scheduled to talk about the results with analysts and reporters on Wednesday. In a message to employees, CEO Oscar Munoz said the latest results vindicated a strategy of adding more flights, investing in customer service and managing costs.

The second quarter is likely to benefit slightly by having Easter travel fall entirely in April, unlike last year. At United, that could be offset, however, by the additional costs of managing around the grounding of its 14 Max planes.

Regulators around the world grounded the Max last month after a second deadly crash. As a result, American and Southwest have removed thousands of flights from their schedules out into August. United, which has fewer Max jets than those two rivals, has claimed to be less affected.

United removed the planes from its schedule into July and is shuffling other planes to make do. In some cases, United has substituted large, two-aisle planes to fly domestic routes previously flown by the single-aisle 737, which is more expensive.

United said that first-quarter earnings, adjusted to exclude one-time gains and costs, came to $1.15 per share.

The average prediction of 19 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for 94 cents per share.

Revenue rose 6% to $9.59 billion. Analysts in the Zacks survey were looking for $9.6 billion on average. The airline carried 6% more passengers than a year ago.

United predicted that a key figure—revenue for each seat flown one mile—would rose between 0.5% and 2.5% in the second quarter when compared with the same period last year. That is a closely watched figure and, though while not perfect, indicates that the airline expects slightly higher fares than last spring.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
2,907.06	26,452.66	8,000.23
+1.48	+67.89	+24.21
+0.05%	+0.26%	+0.30%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.39	Hong Kong Dollar	7.84	Russian Ruble	63.97
British Pound	0.77	Indian Rupee	68.85	Singapore Dollar	1.35
Canadian Dollar	1.33	Japanese Yen	111.94	South Korean Won	1,117.24
Chinese Yuan	6.58	Malaysian Ringgit	4.10	Swiss Franc	1.01
Euro	0.88	New Zealand Dollar	1.48	Taiwan Dollar	30.33
		Philippine Peso	50.86	Thailand Baht	31.75

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Nation

FBI looks for woman 'infatuated' with Columbine shooting

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP)—Authorities said Tuesday that they are looking for a young woman who is "infatuated" with the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School and made threats just days before the 20th anniversary of the attack that killed 13 people.

The undisclosed threats led Columbine and several other high schools outside Denver to lock their doors for nearly three hours. All students were safe, school officials said.

Sol Pais, 18, traveled to Colorado on Monday night and has tried to buy firearms, according to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and the FBI. Pais was last seen in the foothills west of Denver, was considered armed and extremely dangerous and should not be approached.

The FBI's Rocky Mountain Safe Streets Task Force issued a notice Tuesday describing Pais as "infatuated with (the) Columbine school shooting." The alert said police who come into contact with her should detain her and evaluate her mental health.

AP

This combination of undated photos released by the Jefferson County, Colo., Sheriff's Office on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 shows Sol Pais.

Sheriff's spokesman Mike Taplin said the threats she made were general, not specific to any school.

Officials didn't provide further details or reveal where Pais traveled from, saying it would compromise their investigation.

The Denver Post reported that a call to a phone number listed for Pais' parents in Surfside, Florida, was interrupted by a man who identified himself as an FBI agent and said he was interviewing them.

The Associated Press left messages at two numbers listed for Pais' relatives in Florida, while another number was disconnected.

The doors were locked at Columbine and more than 20 other schools in the Denver area as the sheriff's office said it was investigating threats against schools related to an FBI investigation.

Columbine students continued attending classes in the afternoon and left school on time, but after-school activities were canceled on the campus in Littleton, Colorado.

Teenage gunmen attacked Columbine on April 20, 1999, killing 12 classmates and a teacher.

US wants to build more tents at border to detain migrants

HOUSTON (AP)—The Trump administration wants to open two new tent facilities to temporarily detain up to 1,000 parents and children near the southern border, as advocates sharply criticize the conditions inside the tents already used to hold migrants.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a notice to potential contractors that it wants to house 500 people in each camp in El Paso, Texas, and in the South Texas city of Donna, which has a border crossing with Mexico.

Each facility would consist of one large tent that could be divided into sections by gender and between families and children traveling alone, according to the notice. Detainees would sleep on mats. There would also be laundry facilities, showers, and an "additional fenced-in area" for "outside exercise/recreation."

The notice says the facilities could open in the next two weeks and operate through year end, with a cost that could reach $37 million.

But the agency has said its resources are strained by the sharp rise in the numbers of parents and children crossing the border and requesting asylum. It made 53,000 apprehensions in March of parents and children traveling together, most of whom say they are fleeing violence and poverty in Central America. Many ultimately request asylum under U.S. and international law.

AP

In this Nov. 3, 2018, file photo, members of the U.S. Army build a razor wire fence around area for tents near the U.S.-Mexico International bridge, in Donna, Texas.

In a statement Tuesday, CBP said it urgently needed additional space for detention and processing.

"CBP is committed to finding solutions that address the current border security and humanitarian crisis at the southwest border in a way that safeguards those in our custody in a humane and dignified manner," the statement said.

The Border Patrol has started directly releasing parents and children instead of referring them to immigration authorities for potential long-term detention, but families still sometimes wait several days to be processed by the agency and released.

The Border Patrol processing center in McAllen is routinely over capacity . Kevin McAleenan, the new acting homeland security secretary, was scheduled to visit McAllen Tuesday and Wednesday.

In El Paso, hundreds of people are detained in tents set up at the center of a parking lot next to a patrol station. People detained there have complained of prolonged exposure to cold. The Border Patrol limits them to one warm layer of clothing, confiscates coats, and issues a Mylar blanket to each detainee, citing health and safety concerns.

U.S. Rep. Nanette Barragan, a California Democrat, visited the tents earlier this month. She said she had seen a mother with her 4-month-old child who had been there for five or more days, in conditions she said were "unhealthy."

Border Patrol officials have declined to allow the media inside the tents in El Paso.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man stabbed by fellow student at a university in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—A 20-year-old man was critically wounded after being stabbed by a fellow student at a university in Chicago. Police say the 20-year-old victim and the 42-year-old suspect were in one of East-West University's classrooms Tuesday afternoon when the older man stabbed the victim in the back with a knife. The victim was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for treatment. Details about the victim's identity, other than his age and gender, have not been released by police. Charges against the suspect, who was taken into custody at the school, are pending. In a statement posted on the university's website, Chancellor M. Wasi Khan said the victim's condition has stabilized.

Police: Gunman, 1 other dead in Tennessee mall shooting

SEVIERVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Police say a man apparently fatally shot a Pennsylvania woman and wounded a Massachusetts man outside an outlet mall near Great Smoky Mountains National Park before killing himself. The gunman was identified as 21-year-old Leon Steven Jones of Newport-Sevierville, Tennessee. The woman was 24-year-old Olivia Katel Cunningham of York, Pennsylvania. The wounded man, 75-year-old John Marr of Templeton, Massachusetts, was taken to University of Tennessee Medical Center. His condition wasn't known. Sevierville police spokesman Bob Stahlke says all three were shot with a semiautomatic handgun. Investigators say it appears the shooter didn't know either victim, who weren't related. Stahlke earlier told the Knoxville News Sentinel that there was no longer any threat, and the Tanger Outlets mall remained open except for a small area cordoned off as a crime scene.

Sheriff: 2 Mississippi men arrested after videotaped beating

WAYNESBORO, Miss. (AP)—A Mississippi sheriff says two men have been arrested in an assault captured on video and shared on social media. Wayne County Sheriff Jody Ashley tells WDAM-TV that 32-year-old Landon McCaa and 28-year-old Tomas Sion Brown are charged with aggravated assault. The two Waynesboro men are jailed pending scheduled court appearances Wednesday to consider bail. The video shows one man unexpectedly punching a second man outside a house early Saturday. After the initial punch, the attacker forces the victim to the ground and repeatedly punches him in the head. Ashley says McCaa threw the punch shown on video. He says Brown attacked later but isn't seen on video. The sheriff says authorities are investigating the attack and who shot the video. It wasn't immediately clear if the men had lawyers.

LA Archdiocese agrees to $8M payment in sex abuse case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has agreed to pay $8 million to a teenager who was sexually abused by the athletic director at her Catholic high school who had continued to work despite prior allegations of misconduct, it was announced Tuesday. A court finalized the settlement last week of a negligence lawsuit, said David Ring, an attorney for the teenager. The archdiocese has paid out more than $740 million in sexual abuse settlements over the past 15 years. Ring said the $8 million is the largest payment to a single individual in any of the cases. "The Archdiocese recognizes that there was serious harm done to the life of the victim-survivor," the archdiocese said in a statement. "We hope that the settlement will allow her to heal and move forward with her education and lifetime goals. The Archdiocese apologizes for the impact that this caused in her life." Juan Ivan Barajas, a health teacher and athletic director at San Gabriel Mission High School, began having sex with the girl, then 15, in 2016 and eventually kidnapped her, according to court documents.

Asia

Taiwan president denounces Chinese military 'coercion'

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Chinese attempts at military coercion only strengthen Taiwan's resolve to defend itself, the president of the self-governing island republic said Tuesday.

Tsai Ing-wen's comments followed what Taiwan's defense ministry called a major foray by Chinese military planes into airspace just south of the island on Monday, as well as by warships in the surrounding waters.

That included bombers, fighter jets, and early warning and control aircraft.

Tsai told a security forum in Taipei that China's actions "threaten Taiwan and other like-minded countries in the region."

"As president, I want to tell you that Taiwan is not intimidated. These actions only serve to strengthen our resolve. Our military forces have the capacity, determination and commitment to defend Taiwan and not allow coercion to dictate our own future," Tsai said.

China's ruling Communist Party considers Taiwan its own territory, although it has never governed the island, which split from the mainland amid civil war in 1949.

Beijing cut ties with Tsai's government following her 2016 election and has been stepping up military threats and efforts to isolate Taipei diplomatically.

Tsai, whom Beijing despises for her pro-independence views, has pushed for major improvements in Taiwan's armed forces and this year has asked to purchase new F-16V fighter jets and M1 Abrams tanks from the U.S., its main supplier of weaponry.

Tsai also said Taiwan had received notification of U.S. approval of a training package for Taiwanese air force pilots at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona.

American arms sales to Taiwan have long been a thorn in the side of U.S. relations with China, adding to tensions over trade and human rights.

Taiwan said last week that its planes warned off Chinese military aircraft that crossed the center line in the Taiwan Strait, and called China's move a provocation seeking to alter the status quo in the waterway dividing the island from mainland China.

AP

In this Monday, April 15, 2019, photo released by Japan Defense Ministry, China's H-6 bomber jet flies over the East China Sea, taken by a Japan Air Self-Defense Force jet during its scramble.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Shootout in northwest Pakistan kills policeman, 5 militants

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani authorities say a raid by security forces on a militant hideout in the northwestern city of Peshawar triggered a 15-hour shootout in which a police officer and at least five suspected militants were killed. Shaukat Yousafzai, a government spokesman in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said police and commandos surrounded a home in the city on Monday night, acting on intelligence about planned attacks. He says the suspects were asked to surrender but instead, they opened fire on the security forces. Police say the suspects also threw grenades, which killed an officer. The operation is ongoing and the security forces are trying to get into the basement of the house, where one or two more suspects might be hiding. Peshawar is the provincial capital in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which borders Afghanistan.

Kabul announces list of 250 Afghans for talks with Taliban

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Kabul has announced a list of 250 people—including around 50 women—who are headed for Qatar for talks with the Taliban later this week, a gathering known as intra-Afghan dialogue. The list was released by the government on Tuesday although the Taliban have refused to talk directly with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's government, saying they would recognize participants only as "ordinary" Afghans. The talks are due to start Friday. The government's list includes representatives of political parties, government officials, opposition figures, former warlords, women's rights activists, war victims' families, clerics, youth and media groups, as well as tribal elders and members of the independent High Peace Council. The Qatar gathering could mark a significant step toward finding an end to Afghanistan's protracted war and U.S. troop withdrawal.

Thai oil rig workers rescue dog swimming 135 miles offshore

BANGKOK (AP)—A dog found swimming more than 220 kilometers (135 miles) from shore by workers on an oil rig crew in the Gulf of Thailand has been returned safely to land. A worker on the rig belonging to Chevron Thailand Exploration and Production, Vitisak Payalaw, said on his Facebook page that they saw the dog swimming toward the platform last Friday. He said they were lucky to spot it because if there had been waves it probably would not have been visible. The dog made it to the platform, clinging to the support structure below deck without barking or whimpering, Vitisak wrote. The crew managed to lower a rope and secure it around the dog's neck and haul it up. Vitisak said they speculated the dog might have fallen off a fishing trawler, and dubbed it Boon Rod, or Survivor. The dog was delivered by boat to the southern port of Songkhla on Monday and was declared in good shape after being taken to the animal protection group Watchdog Thailand. Vitisak said if the dog was unclaimed, he would like to take it to his home in northeast Thailand.

Indonesian voters deciding between moderate and ex-general

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Tens of millions of Indonesians were voting in presidential and legislative elections Wednesday after a campaign that pitted the moderate incumbent against an ultranationalist former general whose fear-based rhetoric warned the country would fall apart without his strongman leadership.

The first votes were cast in easternmost provinces after polling booths opened at 7 a.m. followed an hour later by central regions such as Bali and then the capital Jakarta and western provinces. Indonesia, a sprawling archipelago of 17,000 islands and hundreds of ethnic groups, has three time zones.

About 193 million people are eligible to vote in polls that will decide who leads the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation and third-largest democracy after India and the U.S. Indonesians are also voting for Senate and national, provincial and district legislatures.

The elections are a huge logistical exercise with more than 800,000 polling stations and 17 million people involved in ensuring they run smoothly. Helicopters, boats and horses are used to get ballots to remote and inaccessible corners of the archipelago.

The presidential race is a choice between five more years of the steady progress achieved under Indonesia's first president from outside the Jakarta elite, Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, or electing Prabowo Subianto, who was a special forces general during the era of the Suharto military dictatorship.

Opinion polls have consistently given a large lead of as much as 20 percentage points to Widodo and his running mate, conservative cleric Ma'ruf Amin, though analysts say the race is likely tighter.

"I've voted for Jokowi because five years in office was not enough for him to complete his brilliant programs for infrastructure, health and education," said Eko Cahya Pratama, 43, after voting in Tangerang on the outskirts of Jakarta.

"For me, this country is better to be managed by a man with a clean track record rather than a dirty one in the past," he said.

Widodo's campaign highlighted his progress in poverty reduction and improving Indonesia's inadequate infrastructure with new ports, toll roads, airports, and mass rapid transit—which became a reality last month in Jakarta, the country's chronically congested capital.

A strident nationalist, Subianto has run a fear-based campaign, highlighting what he sees as Indonesia's weakness and the risk of exploitation by foreign powers or disintegration.

"He deserves to get my vote because I was impressed with his commitment to create a clean government and a great nation," said Anneka Karoine, 43, after she and her husband voted for Subianto and his running mate tycoon Sandiaga Uno. "I believe they will lead our country better than the current leader."

Voting ends at 1 p.m. and so-called "quick count" results are expected after about two hours.

Subianto voted not long after 8 a.m. in Bogor in West Java province, which is one of his strongholds of support, and told reporters he was confident of winning despite trailing in the polls.

"I promised that we will work for the good of the country," he said. "If it's chaos or not, it's not coming from us, but I guarantee that we don't want to be cheated anymore, that Indonesian people don't want to be cheated anymore."

World

Rebuilding Notre Dame will be long, fraught and expensive

LONDON (AP)—Notre Dame in Paris is not the first great cathedral to suffer a devastating fire, and it probably won't be the last.

In a sense, that is good news. A global army of experts and craftspeople can be called on for the long, complex process of restoring the gutted landmark.

The work will face substantial challenges—starting immediately, with the urgent need to protect the inside of the 850-year-old cathedral from the elements, after its timber-beamed roof was consumed by flames .

The first priority is to put up a temporary metal or plastic roof to stop rain from getting in. Then, engineers and architects will begin to assess the damage.

Fortunately, Notre Dame is a thoroughly documented building. Over the years, historians and archeologists have made exhaustive plans and images, including minutely detailed, 3-D laser-scanned recreations of the interior.

Duncan Wilson, chief executive of the conservation organization Historic England, said Tuesday that the cathedral will need to be made secure without disturbing the debris scattered inside, which may provide valuable information—and material—for restorers.

"The second challenge is actually salvaging the material," he said. "Some of that material may be reusable, and that's a painstaking exercise. It's like an archaeological excavation."

Despite fears at the height of the inferno that the whole cathedral would be lost, the structure appears intact. Its two rectangular towers still jut into the Paris skyline, and the great stone vault stands atop heavy walls supported by massive flying buttresses. An edifice built to last an eternity withstood its greatest test.

The inferno that raged through Notre Dame Cathedral for more than 12 hours destroyed its spire and its roof, but spared its twin medieval bell towers. Video captured the cathedral's damaged interior early Tuesday. (April 16)

Tom Nickson, a senior lecturer in medieval art and architecture at London's Courtauld Institute, said the stone vault "acted as a kind of fire door between the highly flammable roof and the highly flammable interior"—just as the cathedral's medieval builders intended.

Now, careful checks will be needed to determine whether the stones of the vaulted ceiling have been weakened and cracked by the heat. If so, the whole vault may need to be torn down and re-erected.

The cathedral's exquisite stained-glass rose windows appear intact but are probably suffering "thermal shock" from intense heat followed by cold water, said Jenny Alexander, an expert on medieval art and architecture at the University of Warwick. That means the glass, set in lead, could have sagged or been weakened and will need minute examination.

Once the building has been stabilized and the damage assessed, restoration work can begin. It's likely to be an international effort.

"Structural engineers, stained-glass experts, stone experts are all going to be packing their bags and heading for Paris in the next few weeks," Alexander said.

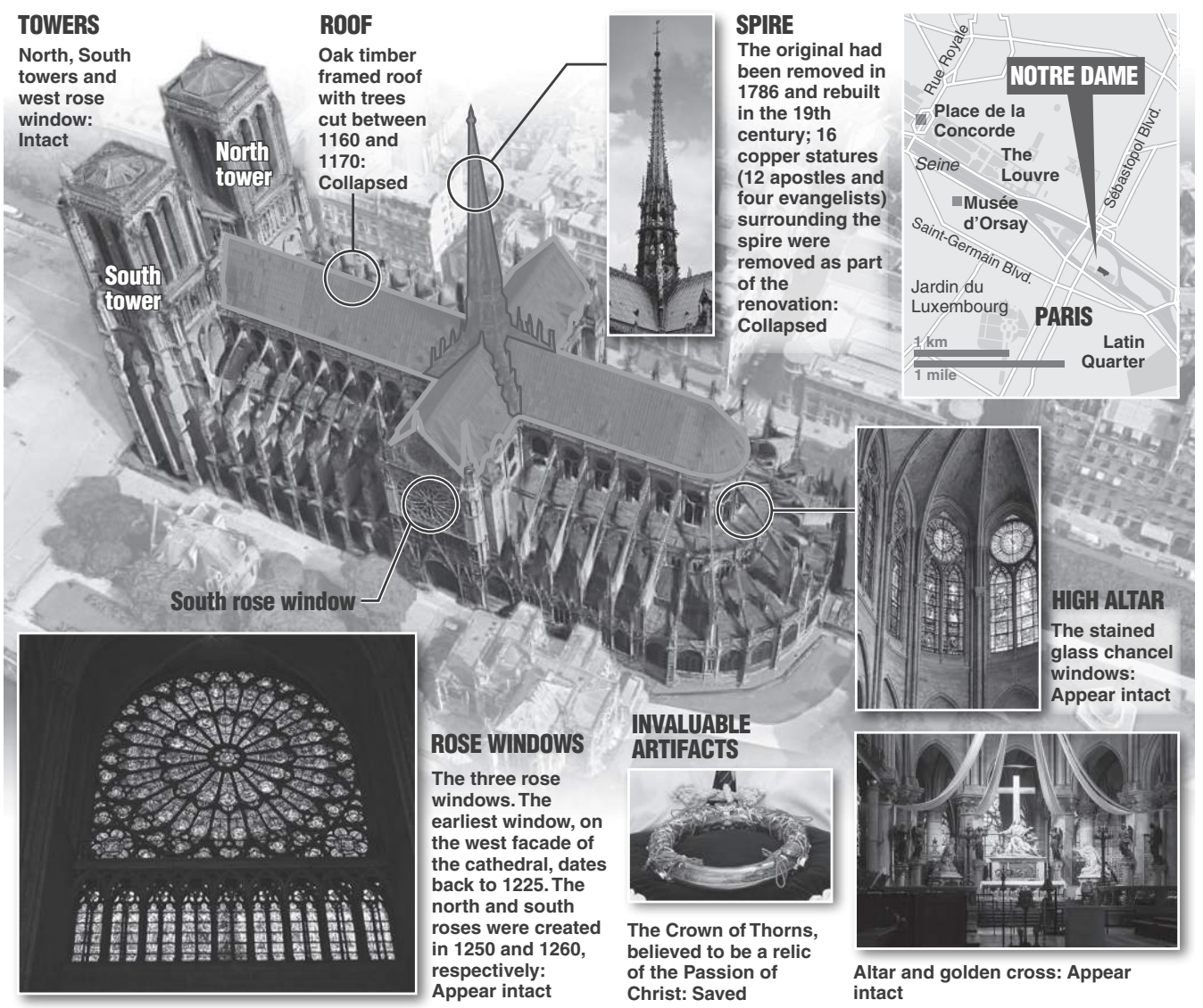
One big decision will be whether to preserve the cathedral just as it was before the fire, or to take a more creative approach.

It's not always a straightforward choice. Notre Dame's spire, destroyed in Monday's blaze, was added to the Gothic cathedral during 19th-century renovations. Should it be rebuilt as it was, or replaced with a new design for the 21st century?

Financial and political considerations, as well as aesthetic ones, are likely to play a part in the decision.

Getting materials may also be a challenge. The cathedral roof was made from oak beams cut from centuries-old trees. Even in the 13th century, they were hard to come by. Nickson said there is probably no country in Europe with big enough trees today.

Alternatives could include a different type of structure made from smaller beams, or even a metal roof—though that would be unpopular with purists.


Notre Dame
devastation
A catastrophic fire engulfed the Notre Dame Cathedral as it was undergoing renovations Monday, threatening one of the greatest architectural treasures of the Western world. The 12th-century cathedral is home to incalculable works of art and history. Below are some of the saved and destroyed pieces from the inferno.
TOWERS
North, South towers and west rose window: Intact
North tower
South tower
ROOF
Oak timber framed roof with trees cut between 1160 and 1170: Collapsed
SPIRE
The original had been removed in 1786 and rebuilt in the 19th century; 16 copper statures (12 apostles and four evangelists) surrounding the spire were removed as part of the renovation: Collapsed
NOTRE DAME
Rue Royale
Place de la Concorde
Seine
The Louvre
Musée d'Orsay
Sébastopol Blvd.
Saint-Germain Blvd.
Jardin du Luxembourg
PARIS
Latin Quarter
1 km
1 mile
South rose window
HIGH ALTAR
The stained glass chancel windows: Appear intact
ROSE WINDOWS
The three rose windows. The earliest window, on the west facade of the cathedral, dates back to 1225. The north and south roses were created in 1250 and 1260, respectively: Appear intact
INVALUABLE ARTIFACTS
The Crown of Thorns, believed to be a relic of the Passion of Christ: Saved
Altar and golden cross: Appear intact
Source: AP, BBC. ZUMA, Google Earth
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Syria fuel shortages, worsened by US sanctions, spark anger

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrians in government-controlled areas who have survived eight years of war now face a new scourge: widespread fuel shortages that have brought life to a halt in major cities.

Cars line up by the hundreds outside petrol stations, and long lines of people waiting to buy rationed cooking gas begin forming before dawn. Taxi drivers are crossing the border to Lebanon to stock up on fuel—and then doubling their rates. Drivers can be seen pulling over because their gas tanks are empty.

The shortages are largely the result of Western sanctions on Syria and renewed U.S. sanctions on Iran, a key ally. But they have sparked rare and widespread public criticism of President Bashar Assad's government just as he has largely succeeded in quashing the eight-year rebellion against his rule.

Western sanctions imposed after Assad launched a violent crackdown on Arab Spring protests in 2011 crippled the country's oil industry, which once provided 20 percent of government revenues. Over the course of the war, Syria's main oil fields fell into the hands of the Islamic State group and then U.S.-backed Kurdish forces.

Iran, which has provided vital military support to Assad, extended a $3 billion credit line for oil supplies beginning in 2013. Russia, another key military ally, has helped cover shortages in cooking gas.

But the Iranian aid appears to have dried up as the U.S. has restored tough sanctions following President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the 2015 nuclear agreement. In November, the U.S. Treasury Department added a network of Russian and Iranian companies to its blacklist for shipping oil to Syria and warned of "significant risks" for those violating the sanctions.

Syrian officials say oil imports stopped in October and have appealed for patience.

Syria produced 350,000 barrels per day before the war and exported more than half of it. Now it is down to around 24,000 barrels a day, covering only a fraction of domestic needs, said Mustafa Hassweiya, head of the state company for distribution of fuel.

First Red Cross aid distributed in crisis-torn Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Red Cross volunteers distributed the first shipment of badly needed emergency supplies in Venezuela on Tuesday after months of feuding between the government, which has denied the existence of a humanitarian crisis, and opponents who have been seeking to use the delivery of aid to force President Nicolás Maduro from power.

In the working class neighborhood of Catia near downtown Caracas, government supporters fired a half dozen gunshots in the air as a van arrived to distribute water purification tablets and empty plastic jugs, creating a small commotion on a major avenue during rush hour.

"We're very happy," Sergio Guerra, a motorcycle taxi driver, said nonchalantly as the sound of the shots cracked overhead. "With these tablets we can defend ourselves a little better by drinking cleaner water."

A small contingent of police showed up to restore order, and volunteers in blue vests agreed to close the van doors from which they were running the slow-moving distribution operation. Elsewhere, trucks carrying the aid snaked through a Caracas highway, the drivers of several vehicles jubilantly honking in support.

The delivery of international humanitarian aid has become a focal point in Venezuela's power struggle, now in its third month, after opposition leader Juan Guaidó declared himself interim president. Both the opposition and the government have been accused of politicizing the aid issue as hospitals struggle to provide even basic care.

Guaidó has rallied the international community and amassed several hundred tons of aid, primarily from the United States, at Venezuela's borders with Colombia, Brazil and the Dutch Caribbean. But Maduro has steadfastly refused to allow it in, blocking opposition activists who in February organized a caravan to deliver the shipments.

"We aren't beggars," Maduro said at the time.

On Tuesday evening, Maduro sought to claim credit for the arrival of the first batch of Red Cross aid, saying on national television that his government coordinated it in line with "international protocols."

Environment

AP

Vernal pool full of frogs and other wildlife in a June 1998 file image. California regulators voted Tuesday, April 2, 2019, to strengthen state safeguards for thousands of wetlands and streams.

California adopts new wetlands rules to protect them from Trump rollbacks

By BETTINA BOXALL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—California regulators voted Tuesday to strengthen state safeguards for thousands of wetlands and streams that are about to lose federal protections in a Trump administration rollback of the Clean Water Act.

Nearly 90 percent of California's historic wetlands have been filled in or plowed under, and the state has said it is vital to preserve what remains.

The new state rules will insulate California from Washington's efforts to drop regulations that prevent the destruction of isolated wetlands and seasonal streams.

The looming federal rollback increased pressure on the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt protections that have been under consideration for more than a decade, ever since a series of U.S. Supreme Court rulings left authorities confused about which waters are covered by the federal law.

In December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched the formal process of repealing Obama-administration-era regulations that broadened the Clean Water Act's coverage of wetlands and seasonal bodies of water that are common in California and the arid West.

The extent of federal wetlands protections has long been a subject of legal and political dispute. Farmers, the building industry and mining interests have filed lawsuits and lobbied Washington to rein in the rules, arguing that they cover marginal waters and reach far beyond the law's original intent.

The Clean Water Act allows states to adopt pollution standards that are more stringent than what the federal government requires, and under state water law California has always had the authority to restrict wetlands development. But regional water boards have exercised that authority unevenly.

The rules adopted Tuesday set statewide standards and define what constitutes a wetland, boosting safeguards for streams and isolated wetlands that are not wet the entire year but still provide valuable ecological services and contribute to river headwaters.

Farm groups objected to the new state criteria because they are broader than the federal definition. They also complained about the cost and amount of time required to comply with the regulations.

Environmental groups, on the other hand, complained that the rules contained too many exemptions and did not ensure the state wouldn't lose any additional wetlands.

In the end, speakers on both sides of the issue told the board Tuesday that they had compromised and were willing to support the new rules.

After hearing several hours of public comment, the board voted with little discussion to adopt the regulations, which will not take effect until next year.

The board's unanimous vote is one of several actions California is taking to thwart the Trump administration's attacks on water protections.

State agencies are refusing to issue permits the federal government needs to raise Shasta Dam in Northern California because the project would drown portions of the McCloud River, which is protected under California's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The water board can also use state water-quality standards to limit Washington's ability to boost irrigation supplies for Central Valley agriculture by relaxing federal safeguards for endangered fish.

Manatees face new challenge in Florida from harassing, non-native armored catfish

By KEVIN SPEAR
ORLANDO SENTINEL

ORLANDO, Fla.—Watching manatees gather in the crystalline waters of Blue Spring is one of Central Florida's outdoor treasures.

Increasingly, however, it's been a bit of a creep show: manatees are being sucked on by dark, plated, spiny and air-breathing invaders.

Rather than gorging on blood or flesh, the fish are eating algae growing on manatees, but that still freaks out and endangers the big animals, which is a key reason for the start of another season of hunting and killing the sailfin suckermouth catfish.

"You can see a manatee with 20, 30 or 40 catfish on it at the worst," said Melissa Gibbs, a mostly serene biology professor at Stetson University, who has mastered wreaking devastation on the exotic fish with a 7-foot, three-pronged, barb-tipped spear.

Gibbs explained that manatees seek winter refuge at Blue Spring near DeLand, escaping the colder St. Johns River.

There is no food for them in the spring and its stream that flows a third of a mile to the St. Johns River.

By staying calm and conserving energy, the animals can remain in spring waters for long periods before having to slip into the perilously chilly river to forage.

"The catfish aren't physically, directly damaging manatees," Gibbs said. "They annoy the heck out of them. And if manatees are twitching and moving around, they are burning calories."

"The harassment by the catfish indirectly affects the manatees that are then more prone to cold stress," Gibbs said.

Having studied the exotic fish for two decades, she thinks their numbers and the threat they pose are greater than ever.

One remedy being applied vigorously by Gibbs and others are early-morning hunts taking place now that the manatee winter season at Blue Spring is over.

Wielding her weapon, Gibbs brings a hunter's focus and, perhaps most importantly for someone with a doctoral degree in neurobiology, research-supported clarity for wanting them gone.

From the vantage point of a canoe or boardwalk, Blue Spring and its stream convey iconic Florida scenery. The water is transparent, showcasing manatees and a variety of fish.

But with a mask and snorkel, the underwater environment is surprisingly active, spacious and sort of cinematic.

Schools of juvenile tarpon rip to and fro with seriousness, manatees become comic blimps and fallen tree limbs provide visual mazes.

Also apparent is that sailfin suckermouth catfish are aquatic rats swimming amok.

Gibbs said they first appeared in Florida in the 1950s associated with fish farming in the Tampa Bay area.

Since then, they have spread elsewhere in the state, an invasion likely assisted by releases of aquarium fish.

In Florida's fresh waters, sailfin suckermouth catfish are mostly unstoppable.

Monica Ross, a senior scientist at Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute and a manatee specialist, said she has observed the catfish at many other springs during the past winter, which had no cold snaps that might have suppressed their numbers.

And in Blue Spring waters, the poop of catfish, weighted with sand that the fish also ingest, is potent in contributing to the further formation of a plague of algae.

The fish feces contains digested algae that acts as fertilizer and live algae ready for explosive reproduction.

"You have a little nutrient bomb that lands on the bottom of the spring run," Gibbs said.

That's another reason to get rid of fish that don't give up easily.

They are shielded with boney plates, and often are called armored catfish, and can breathe air. When in distress, they turn their top and side fins into unyielding and formidable spines.

"I sometimes say facetiously they are evil and must be destroyed," Gibbs said. "But we know we can't destroy them."

At best, Gibbs and other catfish hunters can hope to reduce the population briefly and perhaps alter their behavior, making them more timid about leaving the St. Johns River to venture into Blue Spring.

Opening day of the catfish hunting season — which is limited to park officials and biologists — was last week at sunrise.

Blue Spring State Park manager Michael Watkins conducted a pre-hunt briefing on safety and on protocols for observing and staying away from inquisitive manatees.

The team's routine is to be out of the water before many park visitors arrive. They stalk the fish in a zone of the spring run that is off limits to boats and swimmers.

The harvest of catfish was steady, slowed only by the hunters having to swim back and forth to an unmanned canoe loaded with bins for the carcasses.

The fish each weighed 2 to 3 pounds and sometimes more.

In less than an hour, the four hunters had taken 125 of the fish, which are widely considered to be inedible, and they soon became a pile of organic fertilizer in a citrus grove.

In the past 10 years, Gibbs and others have removed more than 7,000 of them.

Life & Style

What was lost, what was saved from the Notre Dame fire?

In this image made available on Tuesday April 16, 2019 flames and smoke rise from the blaze at Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, Monday, April 15, 2019. AP

PARIS (AP)—More than simply an iconic cathedral and jewel of Gothic architecture, Notre Dame was a treasure trove, housing priceless and irreplaceable marvels of immense religious, artistic, musical, historical and architectural value.

Some were lost to humanity forever in the blaze that ravaged the Paris cathedral Monday. Others were spared, at least in part, or saved before the flames consumed the roof and spire.

A look at what is known about Notre Dame's treasures and their fate.

CROWN OF THORNS

Regarded as the cathedral's most sacred relic, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo says the Crown of Thorns was saved. It is purported to be a relic of the crown placed on the head of Jesus Christ at his crucifixion, obtained and brought to Paris by King Louis IX in the 13th century. It is made of rushes wrapped into a wreath and tied with gold filament. Since 1896 it has been kept under glass and only occasionally displayed. Paris Deputy Mayor Emmanuel Gregoire said it was among pieces quickly transported to a "secret location" by officials after the fire. Hidalgo also said on Twitter that the tunic of St. Louis, a long shirt-like garment from the 13th century and believed to have belonged to King Louis IX, was also rescued.

FRAGMENT OF THE HOLY CROSS AND NAIL

The 24-centimeter (9.45-inch) piece of wood and 9-centimeter-(3.5-inch)-long nail are purported to be from the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. The wood fragment is kept in a glass case. The fate of the two relics is not known.

THE ORGAN

The impressive organ dating to the 1730s and boasting an estimated 8,000 pipes did not burn and is intact, but nobody knows yet whether it was damaged by the heat or water. "The organ is a very fragile instrument," Bertrand de Feydeau, vice-president of the Fondation du Patrimoine which protects France's cultural heritage, tells The Associated Press. He says the organ has "incredible" sound, with "very rich colors," and there is a waiting list of more than two years of organists wanting to play it. Each pipe was individually cleaned during a 2013 refurbishment.

THE ROOF

The cathedral's roof was built using a lattice of giant beams cut from trees in primeval forests in the 12th and 13th centuries. Experts say France no longer has trees big enough to replace the ancient wooden beams that burned in the Notre Dame fire. Feydeau told France Info radio that the cathedral's roof cannot be rebuilt exactly as it was before the fire because "we don't, at the moment, have trees on our territory of the size that were cut in the 13th century." He said the restoration work will have to use new technology to rebuild the roof.

THE BELLS

In the wake of the French Revolution, the cathedral was declared a "Temple of Reason" as part of an anti-clerical movement. All of the original bells were destroyed and replaced—except for one, called Emmanuel and weighing 13 tons. In 2013, as the cathedral celebrated its 850 years with a refurbishment, nine huge new bells replaced the 19th-century ones. The peal of the cathedral's bells has long been famous. Quasimodo was the cathedral's bell-ringer in Victor Hugo's 1831 novel "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." The extent of any damage to the bells and their support structure is unclear.

PAINTINGS

About a dozen large paintings of religious scenes, called "Mays" and dating from between 1630 and 1708, hung in Notre Dame. French Culture Minister Franck Riester says the cathedral's greatest paintings will be removed starting Friday. "We assume they have not been damaged by the fire but there may be damage from the smoke," he said.

STATUES

Last week, 16 religious statues got a lucky escape from Monday's blaze: they were removed from the top of Notre Dame for the first time in over a century to be taken for cleaning. The removal was part of a restoration of the cathedral's towering spire, now gone. The 3-meter-tall copper statues represent the 12 apostles and four evangelists.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

The cathedral's three famed rose windows date to the 13th century. The director of the United Nations cultural organization says it's too early to tell whether they are unscathed. Audrey Azoulay tells The Associated Press art experts haven't yet been able to assess the site yet after the blaze, though she has received encouraging reports. Notre Dame is part of a UNESCO heritage site.

Michael Jackson estate hits back at 'Leaving Neverland'

BOSTON (AP)—The co-executor of Michael Jackson's estate said Tuesday that he's confident the late superstar's supporters will be able to protect his legacy in the wake of an HBO documentary featuring the disturbing stories of two men who say Jackson sexually abused them as boys.

Longtime entertainment attorney John Branca called the documentary a one-sided "made-for-TV-movie" and accused the film's subjects of being motivated by money. Branca acknowledged that Jackson's estate has faced "challenges" since the documentary's release, but said he doesn't believe there will be a long-term impact.

"People love Michael. They love Michael's music for sure. And if the investigation is effective, which I think it will be, in showing that there is severe doubt about what may or may not have happened, we will be back to people feeling 'It's OK to say I like Michael,'" Branca said on a panel hosted by the Harvard Institute of Politics.

It's the latest attack by Jackson's estate against "Leaving Neverland," featuring Wade Robson and James Safechuck. The estate has slammed filmmakers for not interviewing any of Jackson's family members or other defenders, who insist the singer never molested a child.

The film's director, Dan Reed, has repeatedly defended the film. Robson and Safechucks's accusations are not new, but have put Jackson's legacy under fresh scrutiny amid the #MeToo movement.

A lawyer for the men said Tuesday that Branca and lawyers for Jackson's estate are seeking to discredit the singer's accusers out of their own financial interest.

"Their recent comments are just part and parcel of the same thing they've been doing for years, which is protect the estate so they can continue to profit off of it," attorney Vince Finaldi said.

The men first came forward with their stories years earlier in lawsuits. Both of them had previously denied the singer sexually abused them, but said having their own children and Jackson's 2009 death forced them to face the truth. Their lawsuits were dismissed for technical reasons and their appeals are expected to be argued this summer.

Jackson, who was cleared in 2005 of charges that he molested another boy, acknowledged that he befriended numerous children, including some he invited into his bed, but denied molesting any.

The iconic Muppets may be coming to a street near you

NEW YORK (AP)—Big Bird, Elmo and stars of "Sesame Street" are leaving their quiet neighborhood and embarking on a road trip.

The nonprofit Sesame Workshop said Tuesday a selection of Muppets will take part in a 10-city trip to celebrate the show's 50th anniversary campaign with free park festivals, live performances and kid-friendly activities.

Steve Youngwood, the chief operating officer of Sesame Workshop, says the tour is both "a nod to the work we've done and a nod to the work we're going to do" but also "a celebration and reward to everyone who helped us get here."

The Muppets will spend Friday-Sunday in each city, filming segments for the show with local kids and highlighting people and places important to the community. There also will be activities like a giant maze, a treasure dig, photo opportunities, sweepstakes and a cookies-and-milk snack station.

The tour starts June 1 in New York and then has Saturday celebrations in Washington, D.C., on June 8; Pittsburgh on June 15; Detroit on June 22; Chicago on June 29; Dallas on July 6; Kansas City on July 13; Denver on July 20; Seattle on July 27 and Los Angeles on Aug. 3.

"It brings together who we are—from the show to the local community organization to the fans—in a way that we had absolutely never done. It's amazing. You think 50 years and things we've never done before: This level of local engagement in a comprehensive way is something we've never done. And we're really, really excited."

The 50th season of "Sesame Street" kicks off in November with a star-studded primetime special that will include new takes on classic segments and visits from "Sesame Street" icons.

Netflix adds 9.6M subscribers in 1Q as competition heats up

In this Feb. 28, 2019, file photo, actress Susan Sarandon poses for photographers at the photo call for the film 'The Death and Life of John F. Donovan' in Paris. AP

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Netflix kicked off the year with the biggest subscriber gains in the history of its video-streaming service, but it still managed to disappoint investors by forecasting a springtime slowdown.

The strong first-quarter performance coincided with Netflix's biggest U.S. price increases and emerging streaming challenges from Walt Disney and Apple, two of the world's most popular brands.

The video service added 9.6 million subscribers worldwide during the first quarter of 2019, topping the projections of both Netflix's own management and Wall Street analysts. It's the most subscribers that Netflix has gained during any three-month stretch since the Los Gatos, California, company unveiled its streaming service 12 years ago.

The surge announced Tuesday left Netflix with nearly 149 million subscribers through March.

Netflix expects to add another 5 million subscribers during the current quarter ending June, but that projection fell well below analysts' forecast. It would also represent a decline from the 5.9 million customers that the service picked up during the same period last year.

Netflix's stock dipped 1% in extended trading to $355.85 after the numbers came out.

In a discussion streamed on video, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings likened the past quarter to a "perfect clean shot" down the middle of a golf course's fairway while drawing comparisons to Tiger Woods' victory in the Masters tournament.

Netflix tested the bounds of its popularity with a recent a recent price hike that raised the cost of its most popular plan to $13 a month, a $2 increase. New U.S. subscribers had to start paying the higher price in January, but it only recently started to hit existing customers.

Stars from Willie Nelson to Anna Wintour donate to 2020 Dems

WASHINGTON (AP)—From Ben Affleck and Susan Sarandon to Anna Wintour and Willie Nelson, celebrities lined up to give money—and a dash of star power—to their favorite Democratic presidential candidates ahead of this week's first quarter fundraising deadline.

For months, candidates in the crowded field of more than a dozen contenders have aggressively courted key figures in music, television, publishing and film, who are one of the party's most reliable sources of campaign cash. Although many donors remain on the sidelines, contributing to lackluster fundraising hauls, an early snapshot included in the campaign finance reports submitted to the Federal Election Commission this week offers a glimpse of who is drawing attention from entertainment industry in the early stages of the race.

"When you talk about Hollywood, yes, we are talking about movie stars and writers and directors, but we are also talking about people with decades of experience with presidential campaigns," said Yusef Robb, a longtime California political strategist. "Earning support from somebody with a lot of connections in the political world couples with their star power, which people in the chattering classes notice."

California Sen. Kamala Harris has long-standing relationships with major entertainment industry figures in her home state. But former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg are also among the candidates who count celebrities as donors.

So far, few donors are bundling large sums of money for candidates by asking their friends, family and colleagues to give, too. But many have given individually, which is limited under campaign finance law to a $2,800 contribution during the primary election, followed by another $2,800 earmarked for the general election campaign.

Last month, Harris was feted at the Pacific Palisades home of director J.J. Abrams and his wife, Katie McGrath, in a gathering attended by Hollywood powerbrokers, including TV hitmaker Shonda Rhimes. Harris also has received money from Ben Affleck, who gave $2,800; actress Eva Longoria, who gave $5,400; composer Quincy Jones, who gave $2,800; and former "Mad Men" star Jon Hamm, who gave $1,000.

Sanders received $2,700 from actor and comedian Danny DeVito, $2,800 from actress Susan Sarandon, $2,500 from piano player Norah Jones and $1,000 from Foo Fighters guitarist Christopher Shiflett. Jonathan Fishman, drummer for the jam band Phish, which was formed in Sanders' home state of Vermont, gave $1,000, while Thomas Middleditch from HBO's "Silicon Valley" gave $500, records show.

Elton John biopic 'Rocketman' to premiere at Cannes

NEW YORK (AP)—The Elton John biopic "Rocketman" will premiere at the Cannes Film Festival next month.

"Rocketman" will screen May 16 at the French Riviera festival, two weeks before it's to be released in the United States. Paramount Pictures on Tuesday confirmed the premiere, which Variety first reported.

The film stars Taron Egerton as the British singer and pianist. It's directed by Dexter Fletcher, who stepped in to helm the Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" after Bryan Singer was fired. "Rocketman" is more of a musical-biopic hybrid. John is himself a producer on the movie.

The 72nd annual Cannes Film Festival runs May 14-25. Its full slate is to be announced Thursday. As previously announced, Jim Jarmusch's zombie comedy "The Dead Don't Die" will open the festival.

Huerta, Hansberry documentaries among Peabody Award winners

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Profiles of activist Dolores Huerta and writer Lorraine Hansberry are among the Peabody Award winners for documentary programs.

"Independent Lens: Dolores" and "Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes-Feeling Heart" both aired on PBS. The films are among the eight Peabody-winning documentaries to be honored May 18 in New York along with winners in other categories.

Peabody jurors also announced Tuesday they are recognizing the producer of "Hoop Dreams" with an award for its overall work.

Kartemquin Films is receiving the Institutional Award for its "unflinching" projects focusing on social justice and the marginalized in U.S. history, the Peabodys said in a statement.

The nonprofit company received a Peabody for the 1994 high school basketball documentary "Hoop Dreams," and won this year for "Minding the Gap," a coming-of-age film about skateboarders.

The other winners are: "A Dangerous Son," about raising children with mental health issues; "Independent Lens: The Judge," which follows the Middle East's first female Sharia law judge; "POV: The Apology," the stories of three "comfort women" forced into wartime sexual slavery; "The Facebook Dilemma," a probe of the company and how it operates; "The Jazz Ambassadors," about the social and political contributions of jazz and its artists.

Peabody Awards for entertainment programs and news and public service programming are to be announced later.

Rita Moreno will receive a career achievement award at the ceremony to be held May 18 in New York, with journalist Ronan Farrow hosting.

Hardworking wife unloads on husband at day's end

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have demanding jobs neither of us is crazy about. I sell insurance; she manages a hairdressing salon for a large company. At day's end I keep the events of the day—good or bad—to myself. I have heard the saying "Don't bring your family problems to work, and don't bring your work problems home," so I don't carry any "baggage" home with me. If something positive happens, I may mention it.

How do I get my wife to leave her work problems at work? It's the last thing I want to hear about. If I offer an opinion or respond to her, I get criticized and accused of not appreciating how hard she works. She has actually said, "No one else in this world works as hard as I do!" I would like to have an enjoyable evening or weekend with her and not have to hear about HER work problems.

BAGGAGE-FREE

DEAR BAGGAGE-FREE: There is another saying that may help you to be more understanding: A joy shared is twice a joy; a burden shared is half a burden. If your wife can't discuss her frustrations with you, who else can she safely confide in? A word to the wise: Women often just need someone to LISTEN.

Because this is getting to you to the point that you would write to me about it, rather than offer suggestions or opinions, it's time you tell her exactly what you have conveyed to me. Maybe you can agree on a time when these issues can be discussed—once you both have decompressed from your demanding jobs.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: This is my suggestion for "Unfulfilled Grandma in Minnesota" (Jan. 15), the senior citizen looking to help young children. Schools need help! Contact the local elementary school. Speak with the principal. If the administration agrees with your intentions, you may be required to pay for the background check and fingerprinting.

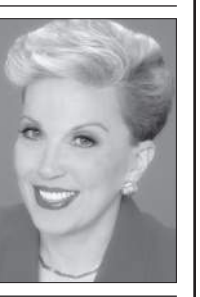
My story: Our youngest daughter sent me a text. She indicated my grandson's kindergarten teacher was asking for help in the computer lab. Being a retired geek, I showed up the following Thursday, working for just an hour. After three weeks the teacher asked me if I would be willing to help her in the classroom for four hours every Thursday. I agreed. It didn't take my grandson long to figure out he got faster help if he addressed me as "Mr. ----."

After three months, I told my wife it was the best four hours of my week. Without blinking an eye, she smiled and said, "You know, it's the best four hours of MY week, too!" Wait? WHAT?

FULFILLED GRANDPA OUT WEST

DEAR GRANDPA: Thank you for writing. Other readers also suggested that volunteering at a school can be a rewarding way for seniors to put their time to good use and help children. I heard from a "camp grandma" who volunteers at a YMCA summer camp, another who is a reader for 3- and 4-year-olds at a Head Start program, a child care worker in the nursery at a church, and a man who helps to make the children of Afghan refugees feel welcome in their new country through the No One Left Behind organization. Thank you all for these important acts of service, and for sharing the information with me and my readers.

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



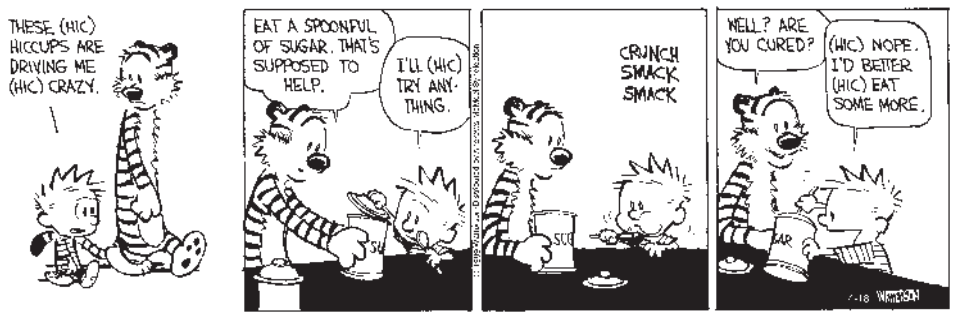
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

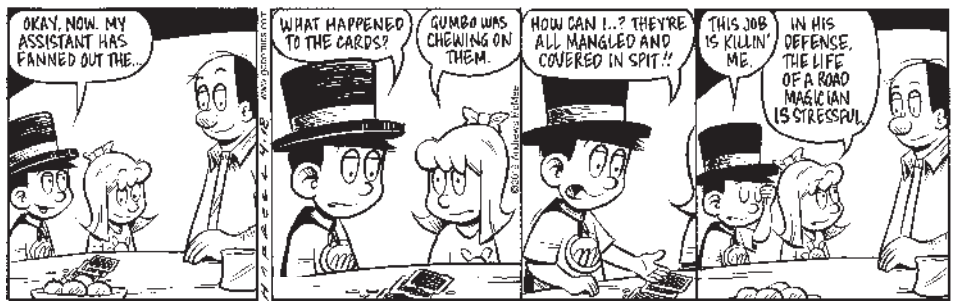

THESE (HIC) HICCUPS ARE DRIVING ME (HIC) CRAZY.
EAT A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR. THAT'S SUPPOSED TO HELP.
I'LL (HIC) TRY ANY-THING.
CRUNCH SMACK SMACK
WELL? ARE YOU CURED?
(HIC) NOPE. I'D BETTER (HIC) EAT SOME MORE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, NOW. MY ASSISTANT HAS FANNED OUT THE...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CARDS?
GUMBO WAS CHEWING ON THEM.
HOW CAN I...? THEY'RE ALL MANGLED AND COVERED IN SPIT!!
THIS JOB IS KILLIN' ME.
IN HIS DEFENSE, THE LIFE OF A ROAD MAGICIAN IS STRESSFUL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

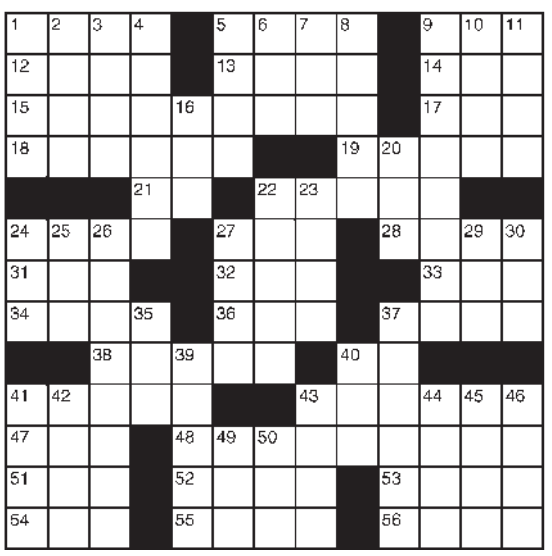
ACROSS
1 Black, in verse
5 Galoots
9 Stitch
12 Oompah band member
13 One
14 La-la lead-in
15 Post-WWII period
17 Texas tea
18 Hot and humid
19 "Hay-stacks" painter
21 Infinitive part
22 Follow
24 Merit badge holder
27 Chopper
28 Fury
31 Mom's mate
32 Morsel
33 "Gosh!"
34 Dieter's target
36 UFO fliers
37 Phone inventor
38 Small change
40 Rocky Balboa's greeting
41 Words to live by
43 Sounded content
47 Grazing land
48 Period before one's golden years
51 "Life of Pi" director Lee
52 "Dream on!"
53 "East of Eden" son
54 Born abroad?
55 Feet, slangily
56 Minus

DOWN
1 LAX guesses
2 Cigar remnant
3 Slender woodwind
4 "Broad-way Joe"
5 Charlie Brown's psychia-trist
6 Italian article
7 Showbiz job
8 Rose parts
9 Pre-historic period
10 Canal of song
11 Poet Whitman
16 "As I see it," in a text
20 Owned by us
22 Departs
23 Tennis barriers
24 Beach lotion letters
25 MSN alterna-tive
26 Period that started with Sputnik
27 Help a hood
29 Solidify
30 Slithery fish
35 Founda-tion
37 Northern
39 Wanderer
40 Actor Brynner
41 Family
42 Actress Russo
43 Share-able PC files
44 Excep-tional
45 Swelled heads
46 Cozy rooms
49 Equal (Pref.)
50 Use a shovel

Solution time: 24 mins.

N	U	M	S	■	D	C	V	■	C	B	I	T
O	R	A	L	■	E	P	A	■	R	U	S	E
I	S	T	A	N	B	U	L	■	E	D	I	C
L	A	T	T	E	R	■	C	R	A	G	A	N	S
■	■	■	S	E	I	■	R	E	A	P	■	■
A	S	H	■	D	E	B	■	S	N	E	A	D
W	E	E	B	■	F	A	D	■	C	S	L	O
W	A	L	E	S	■	Y	E	P	■	T	A	G
■	■	S	E	R	A	■	L	E	S	■	■	■
A	M	I	G	O	S	■	T	R	U	C	E	S
L	A	N	E	■	S	A	C	P	A	U	L	O
M	I	K	E	■	E	M	I	■	V	E	I	-
A	M	I	S	■	T	A	D	■	E	S	S	O

Yesterday's answer 4-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: America Ferrera, 35; Melissa Joan Hart, 43; Conan O'Brien, 56; Jane Leeves, 58.

Happy Birthday: Listen and respond cautiously. Refuse to let your emotions interfere with what's right. It's OK to fight for your rights or the rights of others, but study all sides of a situation before you put your reputation at risk. Truth matters, and so do your motives. Choose wisely, and do your best to make a difference that will benefit society. Your numbers are 2, 13, 20, 27, 34, 37, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Consider your options and prepare diligently. There is no room for error or risk. Change can be good as long as you go about it the right way. Trust in what you know, not what others tell you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't let your emotions get mixed up in your professional affairs. Doing a poor job because your mind is focused on personal matters will not bode well if you want to advance. Keep your personal matters to yourself. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Leave nothing to chance. If you want something done according to your specifications, do the work yourself. Don't let someone's accusations throw you off guard or cause you to get into an unnecessary argument. Speak the truth to avoid criticism. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Make changes at home that will add to your comfort and will put you at ease. Doing something physical will encourage you to live a healthier lifestyle and to spend more time with people who bring out the best in you. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Expand your mind, but don't overspend, make unrealistic promises or travel somewhere that isn't safe. If you want to help others, contribute something physical, not financial. An improvement to the way you live will require you to make a physical adjustment. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Participate in something that will bring you in touch with people with similar interests. Sharing your knowledge will give you a different perspective on how to accomplish your goals. A partnership will help you achieve good results faster. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Control your emotions; you will accomplish your goals. If someone tries to pressure you or complains, focus on activities that require you to do something physical. Put your energy into positive action, not negativity and arguments. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A business trip or meeting will clear up any uncertainty you have about the best way to move forward with your plans. Include the people you feel have the most to offer. When in doubt, ask direct questions. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Recognize a good deal from a bad one. Don't let someone take advantage of you or lead you astray. Stick to what and who you know best, and let go of situations and people who tend to meddle or cause problems. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Sharing too much information with someone who cannot keep a secret will leave you open for criticism. Do your own thing to avoid interference. A change at home will surprise someone you love. A romantic gesture is encouraged. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A money matter can be resolved. Go over your investments, assets and any matters concerning government agencies or institutions. A home improvement project will turn out well and within budget if you do as much of the work possible yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Show a little passion when it comes to your work and what you are trying to accomplish. Attitude will play a hefty role when it comes to drumming up the support or cooperation you need to move forward. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are curious, empathetic and helpful. You are outgoing and energetic.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5					4		
8			6			3		
				2	9		8	7
	6					7		
		4		9		1		
		3					9	
2	9		5	6				
		1			8			2
		8					4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	6	8	1	2	7	5	4	9
4	2	1	6	5	9	3	8	7
7	9	5	4	3	8	6	1	2
1	3	2	9	4	6	8	7	5
9	8	6	3	7	5	1	2	4
5	7	4	8	1	2	9	6	3
8	5	7	2	6	3	4	9	1
6	1	3	7	9	4	2	5	8
2	4	9	5	8	1	7	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

WHAT'S IN YOUR WARDROBE? **Solution: 8 letters**

T	E	O	D	E	X	U	T	U	H	S	K	C	O	S
E	S	S	S	C	A	R	F	N	E	D	E	C	T	E
K	U	H	R	H	O	O	D	I	E	S	L	A	F	R
C	O	S	I	U	O	Ⓥ	T	Q	L	O	H	I	E	E
A	L	U	S	R	P	Ⓔ	S	U	S	C	N	H	B	M
J	B	E	T	E	T	Ⓢ	S	E	N	E	T	O	I	H
S	L	C	S	F	R	Ⓣ	T	E	C	A	O	T	S	S
S	A	E	I	W	I	D	R	K	E	T	T	R	I	A
E	Z	E	L	L	E	T	L	L	C	E	E	P	S	C
L	E	L	K	N	A	A	G	U	N	K	A	S	A	O
P	R	F	I	T	C	U	T	S	A	R	H	P	N	S
A	N	M	R	E	L	E	S	E	K	O	R	O	D	T
R	R	I	N	G	S	E	N	A	R	I	R	L	A	U
T	K	H	A	K	I	S	B	T	C	W	O	O	L	M
S	N	A	E	J	E	R	S	E	Y	T	I	U	S	E

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Belt, Blazer, Blouse, Bootcut, Capri, Cashmere, Casual, Closet, Costume, Denim, Dress, Fine, Fleece, Hats, Heels, Hoodies, Jacket, Jeans, Jersey, Khaki, Leather, Mittens, Necklace, Outfit, Parka, Polo, Purse, Rings, Sandals, Scarf, Shoes, Shorts, Silk, Skirt, Sneakers, Socks, Strapless, Suit, Sweater, Ties, Trench, T-shirt, Tuxedo, Unique, Vest, Wool

Yesterday's Answer: Parent

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WHATZIT Solution: One thing after another

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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New deal makes Wilson highest-paid NFL player

RENTON, Wash. (AP)—With one 15-second video clip posted on social media shortly after midnight and five simple words, Russell Wilson put to rest any questions about his long-term future.

No more speculation about Wilson wanting to play elsewhere. No more rumblings of a bigger market for Wilson to call home.

"Seattle, we have a deal," Wilson said in the video early Tuesday morning.

They were words Seahawks fans had waited to hear since Seattle's playoff loss to Dallas in January, though it had seemed increasingly unlikely as the days ticked away toward Wilson's deadline to have a deal done by the end of the first day of offseason workouts.

But they did strike a deal, one that makes Wilson the highest-paid player in the NFL and gives Seattle the chance to build a competitive roster around its star quarterback.

"Russell's goal and his hope was that he would continue his career with the Seahawks and continue to bring championships to this town," Wilson's agent Mark Rodgers said. "He believes there is still unfinished business and he is looking forward to pursuing that without having to worry about contracts and his future."

Wilson's $140 million, four-year extension puts him at the top of the NFL salary food chain for now. He has the highest yearly average salary at $35 million per season. He has the highest signing bonus ($65 million) and guaranteed money ($107 million) in league history.

And for good measure, Wilson also got Seattle to agree to a no-trade clause.

AP

In this Jan. 27, 2019, file photo, NFC quarterback Russell Wilson of the Seattle Seahawks runs onto the field during player introductions before the NFL Pro Bowl football game against the AFC in Orlando, Fla. Wilson posted a video to social media early Tuesday, Apriil 16, 2019, saying, "Seattle, we got a deal," shortly after a reported midnight deadline for the Seahawks and their star quarterback to agree on a contract extension.

"Russ has been a huge factor in everything that has happened, and this allows us to stay on track with continuing to push to find that consistency," coach Pete Carroll said in a statement from the team announcing the deal. "Russell is a unique player, a unique competitor. It's rare the way he's just so consistently connected to competing and battling. To keep that factor as part of the program is just a real positive for our fans and for everyone. We're all fortunate to see this happen."

The 30-year-old Wilson had set a midnight Monday deadline for a new deal with Seattle. He wanted certainty about his contract before the team got into its offseason workout program, which began Monday. Wilson showed up for the first day and by the end of the night was sending social media into a frenzy after posting the video of him and his wife, Ciara, announcing the agreement.

Wilson's annual average tops Aaron Rodgers' average annual salary of $33.5 million as part of the $134 million extension he signed last year with the Green Bay Packers. Wilson's previous $87.6 million, four-year deal was signed at the beginning of training camp in 2015 and was set to expire after next season.

Wilson was the second-highest paid player in football behind Rodgers when his deal was signed in 2015, but he had fallen to 12th among NFL QBs, according to Overthecap.com.

Carroll said Jody Allen, the chair of the Seahawks following the death of her brother, Paul Allen, last fall, was instrumental in getting the deal finished.

"She was involved, and her support really allowed the guys to function at the level where they were able to get this done," Carroll said.

Seattle had leverage knowing it had at least three more seasons with Wilson. Even if he played out 2019 under his current deal, Seattle could have used the franchise tag if needed to keep him under contract through 2020 and 2021 at reasonable prices by QB standards.

But Seattle showed last year that it's a team on the rise again after missing the playoffs in 2017. The window that first opened when Wilson arrived could be open again after Seattle went 10-6 and reached the playoffs last season in what was supposed to be a rebuilding year.

The extension allows Seattle to budget for the future and build a contender around the former third-round pick. All-Pro linebacker Bobby Wagner is in line for an extension with his deal expiring after the upcoming season. Pass rush standout Frank Clark is set to play on the franchise tag. Defensive tackle Jarran Reed is likely to get paid as well.

Wilson, a five-time Pro Bowl selection, is coming off arguably his best season.

The 5-foot-11 Wilson threw for a career-high 35 touchdowns and matched his career low with seven interceptions. He attempted only 427 passes—his lowest total since his second season, when Seattle won the Super Bowl—but he had a career best 110.9 passer rating. He also ran only 67 times, a career low, as the improved running game and offensive line play allowed Wilson to stay in the pocket more often.

Wilson has led the Seahawks to the playoffs in six of his seven seasons, the only miss coming in 2017. He won a Super Bowl in his second season and got back to the championship game a year later before making the mistake that will hover over him until he wins another title, throwing a goal line interception in the final minute when the Seahawks had a chance to take the lead on New England.

He's also been extremely durable, never missing a game while playing through significant knee, ankle and shoulder injuries.

And with his new contract done, Wilson has the chance to play his entire career with one team.

New-look Tour approved for world ranking points

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—The player who takes the fewest strokes might not win the Tour Championship because of the radical scoring change for the FedEx Cup in which the top seed will start at 10-under par with a two-shot advantage.

The PGA Tour will continue to keep a traditional score, even if it won't be published, so that world ranking points can be awarded.

The Official World Golf Ranking board met last week at the Masters and approved a PGA Tour proposal that awards full ranking points based on where players would have finished without the staggered start.

The No. 1 seed in the FedEx Cup starts the tournament at 10 under, with the No. 2 seed at 8 under, and then 7 under, 6 under and 5 under. The next five players start at 4 under, all the way down until Nos. 26 through 30 begin at even par.

Last year at East Lake, Tiger Woods won the Tour Championship at 11-under par, and Justin Rose, who finished tied for fourth at 6 under, won the FedEx Cup and the $10 million bonus.

Under the new system, Woods would have started at 2 under as the 20th seed, and thus finished at 13 under. Instead of winning and getting 62 ranking points, he would have finished second. Rose was at 6 under, but he would have started at 8 under as the No. 2 seed and finished at 14 under.

The world ranking could not have given Rose points for "winning" when his real score had him tied for fourth.

The Tour Championship has such a strong field that not awarding ranking points could have cost players endorsement money, because most contracts have an incentive tied to the world ranking. It's even more critical now because of how tight it is at the top.

Brooks Koepka finished the year at No. 1 by an average of 0.02 points.

Already this year, there have been four changes at the top of the ranking among Dustin Johnson, Koepka and Rose.

Tiger and Sam

Tiger Woods officially resumed his chase of Jack Nicklaus and his 18 professional majors when he won the Masters for his 15th major title, and his first in nearly 11 years since the 2008 U.S. Open.

His better chance is a race no less prestigious—Sam Snead and his record 82 career PGA Tour victories.

The PGA Tour already has begun preparing for such a moment by publishing "Tiger Woods, Chasing 82" on its website. Along with a look at various segments in Woods' career—when he held all four majors, through swing changes, returning from various injuries—the tour goes deep in explaining how Snead reached 82 victories. He was once credited with 84 and then his total was reduced to 81, before the British Open was added.

It should come into view the next time Woods plays, which could be the Wells Fargo Championship the first week in May.

Woods first was asked about Snead's record in 2012, when he was at 73 victories. For so much of his career, the topic was always Nicklaus and his 18 majors.

"I was aware of it, but at the time, everyone focused on Jack's record," Woods said at Congressional in 2012. "But as I delved more into the game and was probably in high school, I started understanding Sam's contributions to the game of golf and his consistency. The fact that he won at age 52, when he won Greensboro, and to do it for that long is amazing. Truly amazing."

Woods' victory in the Masters guarantees that he will be fully exempt into every major championship for the first 27 years of his pro career.

Trail Blazers go up 2-0 against Thunder

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — CJ McCollum had 33 points, Damian Lillard added 29 and the Portland Trail Blazers took a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series against the Oklahoma City Thunder with a 114-94 victory on Tuesday night.

Maurice Harkless added 14 points and nine rebounds for the third-seeded Blazers, who opened a playoff series with two wins for the first time since the 2014 playoffs, when they beat Houston in six games.

The series shifts to Oklahoma City for Game 3 on Friday.

"Now we've got to go on the road and get gritty," McCollum said.

Russell Westbrook, who had his ninth career postseason triple-double in Oklahoma City's Game 1 loss, finished with 14 points, nine rebounds and 11 assists. He was pulled with 3:31 with most of his fellow starters after Portland built a 112-91 lead.

Paul George had 27 points despite lingering questions about his right shoulder, which was covered with kinesiology tape. George insisted the shoulder, which kept him out of the Thunders' regular-season finale, was fine at practice on Monday even though it was wrapped in ice.

AP

Portland Trail Blazers guard CJ McCollum, center, shoots between Oklahoma City Thunder forward Jerami Grant, left, and forward Markieff Morris during the second half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Tuesday, April 16, 2019, in Portland, Ore.

The Blazers were up 91-75 after three and easily protected their lead in the fourth, with Seth Curry's 3-pointer pushing the lead to 100-83.

Portland's victory in Game 1 snapped a 10-game postseason losing streak that included four-game sweeps in the past two seasons—first by the Warriors and then last year by the Pelicans. Lillard had 30 points in the 104-99 win on Sunday.

Oklahoma City beat the Blazers in all four meetings during the regular season. The Thunder have been to the playoffs for eight of the last nine seasons, but they haven't gotten past the opening round for the past two.

Oklahoma City started with a lot more energy than in Game 1, when it fell behind by 19 points in the first half. When Westbrook hit a 3-pointer in the first quarter, he pounded his chest and the Thunder went on to lead 31-26 at the end of the quarter.

Lillard hit a 3-pointer and was fouled to close the Blazers within 48-43. But the game began to get heated, with Lillard and Westbrook getting into it when Lillard tried to strip the ball. The officials reviewed it for a "hostile act" but concluded there were no fouls on the play. There was tension the rest of the way, and frequent jawing back-and-forth.

Westbrook collected three fouls in the half and headed early to the bench, as did Portland's Enes Kanter, who was so successful against the Thunder in Game 1. Together the teams had 29 fouls in the opening half.

McCollum nailed a 3-pointer off a pass from Lillard at the buzzer to tie the game at 54 going into the break. Then McCollum turned to the crowd and simply nodded.

Portland pulled in front on McCollum's jumper and extended it to 69-63 with Lillard's long 3-pointer. Curry had back-to-back 3s to put the Blazers up 85-73 late in the third.

The Blazers' hopes for postseason success appeared to take a blow last month when center Jusuf Nurkic was lost for the season with a broken left leg. Nurkic was averaging 15.6 points and 10.4 rebounds when he sustained the gruesome injury during a game against the Brooklyn Nets.

Raptors 112, Magic 82

In Toronto, kept off the scoreboard in a Game 1 defeat, Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry was "at his finest" in Game 2, at least in the eyes of coach Nick Nurse.

Fellow All-Star Kawhi Leonard wasn't too bad, either.

Leonard scored 37 points, Lowry bounced back with 22 and the Raptors routed the Orlando Magic, evening their Eastern Conference first-round series at one win apiece.

Pascal Siakam had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who never trailed and led by as many as 34.

Game 3 is Friday night in Orlando.

Leonard said Lowry "led us in intensity," helping the East's No. 2 seed avoid a 2-0 hole.

"He did a great job of bouncing back," Leonard said. "He's a pro. That's what pros do, they know it's just one game and they come in the next game ready to play."

Lowry, who missed all seven attempts in Game 1, shot 8 for 13 and led his team with seven assists.

"He was big time tonight," Nurse said. "That's him at his finest."

Siakam said Lowry was visibly more tuned in Tuesday than he was Saturday.

"From the jump he had that fire in his eyes," Siakam said. "That's the Kyle we know."

Despite playing in foul trouble for much of the night, Leonard finished with a career playoff-high 15 field goals. He made his first nine attempts from inside the arc before missing a layup.

Nuggets 115, Spurs 105

In Denver, Jamal Murray just couldn't get the bad taste out of his mouth, and even a bite of pretzel he poached from a kid after tumbling into the stands in the third quarter wasn't exactly satisfying.

"It was really dry," Murray said.

Maybe it was just what Murray needed, however, helping spark his fabulous fourth quarter that fueled the Denver Nuggets' comeback over the San Antonio Spurs and knotting their playoff series 1-1.

Murray's late heroics may very well have salvaged Denver's season.

Teammates told him to keep shooting the ball when his shots kept rimming out. Finally, he found his touch, scoring 21 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter.

"Everybody told me to stick with it," Murray said. "I don't think I scored a field goal until the fourth. I just stuck with it. They all believed in me."

The Nuggets were in danger of losing a second straight game at the Pepsi Center after posting the NBA's best home record (34-7) during the regular season. They trailed 78-59 late in the third quarter before closing the game on a 55-27 run.

Cousins sidelined indefinitely due to torn left quadriceps

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—DeMarcus Cousins has a torn left quadriceps muscle that will sideline the Golden State center indefinitely, a devastating injury that the Warriors feared was serious when he went down in the first quarter of their first-round playoff loss to the Clippers.

An MRI exam Tuesday morning on Cousins' left leg revealed the tear. The two-time defending NBA champion Warriors said Cousins will begin rehabilitation immediately and updates will be "provided as appropriate."

Coach Steve Kerr said after the Warriors' 135-131 Game 2 loss on Monday night that Cousins would be out for a significant period.

Playing in just his second career postseason game after a nine-year wait, Cousins went down in the first quarter in front of the Golden State bench after swiping a ball from Patrick Beverley in the back court. He immediately grabbed at his left quad. Cousins hobbled to the locker room at the 8:09 mark.

Cousins had just returned in January from a nearly yearlong absence following surgery for a torn left Achilles tendon suffered while with the Pelicans last season.

He had two points, two rebounds and an assist in less than 4 minutes Monday. He fouled out of Saturday's 121-104 Game 1 win with nine points, nine rebounds and four assists in 21 minutes.

"I know it's frustrating for him. I've been through something like that, getting hurt, getting all the way back and then getting hurt again, so I know how frustrating it is," Warriors center Kevon Looney said. "He is a resilient guy. He's been through adversity before and I know he's going to bounce back. His spirit is probably low right now, but he's a tough guy and he'll be back better than ever."

Looney picked up more minutes with Cousins' injury and scored a career-high 19 points while making all six of his shots in 19 minutes. Kerr is likely to use a combination of shot-blocking presence Andrew Bogut and Looney going forward this postseason.

Yankees pummel Red Sox in first meeting

NEW YORK (AP)— James Paxton struck out 12 in his first stab at baseball's biggest rivalry, Red Sox ace Chris Sale found his fastball but not better results, and the New York Yankees three-hit Boston 8-0 on Tuesday night in the first game this season between the struggling AL East foes.

Paxton (2-2) pitched two-hit ball for eight innings, walking one and going to just two three-ball counts in a game that took only 2 hours, 23 minutes.

Mike Tauchman hit his first major league homer and drove in four runs, and Clint Frazier and Gleyber Torres also went deep for the Yankees. New York had dropped five of six and is 7-9 a year after winning 100 games.

Sale (0-4) reached 97.5 mph—a positive sign for Boston after his velocity sagged this spring—but still got hit around, allowing four runs and seven hits over five innings. He struck out six and walked one while the World Series champions dropped to 6-12.

AP

New York Yankees starting pitcher James Paxton delivers during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the Boston Red Sox, Tuesday, April 16, 2019, in New York.

Astros 9, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Alex Bregman hit a grand slam, Josh Reddick connected for a two-run homer against his former team, and the Astros beat the Athletics for their majors-best 10th straight win.

Bregman's second career grand slam gave Collin McHugh (3-1) all the run support he needed on the way to winning his third straight start. Bregman's other slam came May 14, 2017, at the Yankees.

McHugh allowed two hits over six scoreless innings, struck out five and walked two. The A's avoided the shutout getting a sacrifice fly from Kendrys Morales in the ninth against Reymin Guduan.

Phillies 14, Mets 3

In Philadelphia, Scott Kingery and J.T. Realmuto each had three hits and five RBIs as Philadelphia routed New York.

Kingery and Maikel Franco hit three-run homers and Realmuto had a pair of two-run doubles in a 10-run first inning. Realmuto also went deep for the Phillies in the fourth.

Nick Pivetta (2-1) gave up three runs and seven hits in five innings.

Mets starter Steven Matz (1-1) allowed eight runs—six earned—without retiring a batter.

Pirates 5, Tigers 3, 10 innings

In Detroit, Starling Marte hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning to lift Pittsburgh over Detroit.

Jung Ho Kang also went deep for Pittsburgh, which blew a 3-0 lead but recovered to win when Marte hit a two-out drive off Shane Greene (0-1). Detroit's closer hadn't allowed a run all season.

Keone Kela (1-0) gave up a tying single by Jeimer Candelario in the ninth, but Nick Kingham was able to close out the Tigers in the 10th for his first career save.

Rays 4, Orioles 2

In St. Petersburg, Tyler Glasnow allowed two runs over seven innings in winning his fourth consecutive start to begin the season and Avisail Garcia drove in three runs as Tampa Bay beat Baltimore for its seventh win in eight games.

Glasnow (4-0) allowed hits to six of the first 13 batters, but allowed one hit over his final 4 2/3 innings and ended the outing by retiring 10 in a row.

Garcia hit a two-run homer during a three-run fourth, and added an RBI single in the eighth.

Cubs 4, Marlins 0

In Miami, Jose Quintana gave up six hits in seven innings to lead Chicago over Miami.

Quintana (2-1) struck out seven and extended his scoreless innings streak to 14. He didn't allow a runner to reach second until Austin Dean's two-out double in the seventh.

Javier Baez went 3 for 4 and hit his fifth homer, a solo shot to the opposite field off Adam Conley in the eighth. Baez has three hits in each of his last three games.

Giants 7, Nationals 3

In Washington, Evan Longoria, Brandon Belt and Steven Duggar homered off fastballs from Stephen Strasburg and light-hitting San Francisco powered past Washington.

The Giants entered the game with 10 homers through their first 17 games. They won for the fourth time in five games.

Strasburg (1-1) allowed four runs in six innings. Still learning to pitch with a fastball that sits in the low-to-mid-90s, instead of the high-90s heat he possessed before Tommy John surgery and other ailments, he's served up five homers over his past two outings.

Diamondbacks 9, Braves 6

In Atlanta, Christian Walker homered leading off the ninth inning and Arizona rallied against the shaky Atlanta bullpen. The Braves squandered a massive, knee-buckling homer by Ronald Acuña Jr. and another strong start by Max Fried.

Johan Camargo's three-run double in the fifth put the Braves ahead. Fried finally gave up his first earned runs of the season but left with a 5-2 lead, only to watch the relievers give it away. Chad Sobotka and Jesse Biddle didn't retire anyone as the Diamondbacks pushed across four runs in the seventh to reclaim the lead.

After Ozzie Albies homered in the bottom half to tie the game at 6, Walker drove the second pitch from A.J. Minter (0-2) deep into the seats to start the ninth.

Blue Jays 6, Twins 5

In Minneapolis, Teoscar Hernandez and Justin Smoak hit two-run singles as Toronto rallied past Minnesota.

Hernandez singled off Twins reliever Trevor Hildenberger in the top of the seventh to give Toronto a 6-4 lead. Hernandez had capitalized against Minnesota's bullpen a day earlier, too, hitting a home run in the eighth inning that gave the Blue Jays a 5-3 win Monday.

The game ended with the Twins' C.J. Cron getting thrown out at home plate. Cron tried to score from first base on a double to left field by Byron Buxton.

Eddie Rosario hit a three-run home run and Jorge Polanco and Marwin Gonzalez also homered for the Twins.

Brewers 8, Cardinals 4

In Milwaukee, Christian Yelich hit a three-run homer, his eighth against St. Louis this season, to help send Milwaukee to the win.

Lorenzo Cain and Yasmani Grandal each homered in a five-run third against Jack Flaherty (1-1), when the Brewers went up 5-0.

Yelich's 427-foot homer to right center in the fifth inning was his ninth of the season and put Milwaukee up 8-0. He is the first player to homer in six consecutive games against the Cardinals. The Brewers have won nine of their last 10 against St. Louis, including four in a row.

Rangers 5, Angels 0

In Arlington, Mike Minor threw a three-hitter for his first career shutout, backed by two-run homers by Joey Gallo and Asdrubal Cabrera, as Texas beat Los Angeles.

Minor (2-1) limited Los Angeles to three singles while throwing 103 pitches with seven strikeouts and two walks.

Cabrera put Texas up 3-0 when his deep fly appeared to ricochet of the wrist of leaping right fielder Kole Calhoun and go over the 8-foot wall in the fourth off Jaime Barria (1-1).

Gallo pulled a 439-foot shot that landed on the concourse beyond the lower-level seats to greet reliever Dillon Peters in the sixth and make it 5-0.

White Sox 5, Royals 1

In Chicago, Yoan Moncada hit a pair of solo shots for his first multihomer game and Leury Garcia added a two-run drive to power Chicago past Kansas City.

Yonder Alonso also homered and went 4 for 4 as the White Sox won for the fourth time in five games.

Reynaldo Lopez (1-2) allowed one run and five hits in six innings. Four relievers worked the final three innings for Chicago.

Lucas Duda homered for the Royals.

Rockies 8, Padres 2

In San Diego, Nolan Arenado homered for the third straight game — a two-run shot on his 28th birthday—and Jon Gray pitched seven strong innings as Colorado beat San Diego for a two-game sweep and its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Gray (1-3) allowed a home run in an NL-record 16th straight game when Wil Myers connected leading off the fifth, but otherwise tamed the Padres, who have lost three straight for the first time this season. Gray improved to 9-3 lifetime against San Diego by holding the Padres to one run and three hits while striking out five and walking three.

Dodgers 6, Reds 1

In Los Angeles, Joc Pederson hit a two-run homer for the second straight game and the Dodgers beat the Cincinnati Reds for their third win in a row.

Pederson's eighth homer of the season just made it over the wall in right field with two outs in the second inning, similar to the location of his first career walk-off shot in the bottom of the ninth that rallied the Dodgers to a 4-3 win Monday.

The Dodgers lead the National League with 37 homers, tying the 1956 Cincinnati Reds for fourth-most through 19 games. Los Angeles has gone deep in 17 of 19 games.

Indians 4, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Shane Bieber struck out five and combined with three relievers as the Cleveland Indians beat the Mariners and stretched their winning streak to three games.

The Mariners extended their major league record home-run streak to start the season to 20 games. Seattle now has 42 home runs, yet is mired in a five-game losing streak after a stretch of six straight wins that once had the Mariners atop the standings.

Record M-League stint for Japanese player

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

When Former J League player Dan Ito bids for a Guinness World Record, the CNMI would be part of that history.

Ito played in the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville and suited up for the Old B Bank. The Japanese is gunning for the record for "playing for most number of countries, with the Commonwealth stop marking his 22nd.

"I am excited to play here and see what kind of football game does this island play," said Ito, who also managed to watch the game between Korean Football Association on Saipan and Matansa before he played for the Old B Bank in its match versus TanHoldings Football Club.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Dan Ito, right, poses for a photo with CNMI National Team head coach Michiteru Mita, as they wait for their game in the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Ito went on to score the last goal in Old B Bank's 4-1 victory over TanHoldings, as he lit up the board in the 86th minute.

The 43-year-old is now back in Guam where he is playing for the Rovers FC in Division 1 of the Budweiser Guam Men's Soccer League. Besides Guam and the CNMI, the midfielder has seen action in his home country, Australia, Singapore, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Bhutan, Laos, Mongolia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Maldives, Hong Kong, Macau, and India.

"I am fortunate to have the opportunity to play in many countries and experience different cultures," said Ito, who hinted at retirement after more than 20 years in the sport.

"I am not getting any younger and I want to move to another phase of my career, maybe try coaching, beginning in the youth level, just like what my friends do," the Hokkaido native said.

Ito added he hopes to return to Saipan and stay longer so he can meet more players and possibly hold clinics here.

"I would love to share my knowledge in the sport. I know Saipan like football very much and many youth are interested in it. The facility is great and more people will come here in the future to play or train," the former Sendai University player said.

Messi ends United's hopes of another Camp Nou comeback

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Lionel Messi made sure there was no memorable Champions League comeback for Manchester United at Camp Nou this time.

Messi scored two early goals to help Barcelona beat United 3-0 on Tuesday and reach the Champions League semifinals for the first time in four seasons with a 4-0 aggregate score.

United had arrived at Camp Nou hoping to take inspiration from its Champions League final victory twenty years ago, when current manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer capped a comeback against Bayern Munich by scoring the winner in injury time.

But Messi showed that past glories mean very little when he is playing at his best.

His first goal was had plenty of the familiar Messi magic, as he ghosted past a defender and bent the ball just inside the upright.

The second was largely thanks to a blunder by David de Gea. Messi only managed a tame shot on goal but the Spain goalkeeper let it slip underneath him and into the net.

"The image (we gave) was spectacular. This is who we are," Messi said. "I was fortunate the first went in, I struck it hard and just inside the post. I needed a little more luck on the second. The important thing is that we achieved our goal. We have taken one more step (to the title)."

After not managing a single shot on target at Old Trafford in the first leg, United looked a lot more dangerous going forward at the start. But after Marcus Rashford hit the crossbar, Messi took over with his tournament-leading ninth and 10th goals of the season.

"Messi and Cristiano (Ronaldo) have been the best players in the world for the past decade," Solskjaer said. "And he showed why we think that and why he has won so many titles. If you give him space and timing around the goal he will create chances and score."

Ronaldo will not be joining Messi in Europe's final four.

NARAJA

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structions to his players, but when the game resumed, Mt. Carmel stole the possession and swung the ball around as time expired.

Raphael Galang top-scored for Mt. Carmel with his 11 markers, while Naraja also registered double figures with 10. Mister and Nam had 9 apiece for SIS.

With MCS narrowly escaping with a victory, it improved its record to 5-1, while SIS dropped to a 3-2 card.

Meanwhile, Agape Christian School pummeled Northern Marianas International School, 68-17.

The Phoenix didn't stand a chance against the Torchbearers right from the outset, as the latter exploded for 23 points in the first quarter, while the former managed only 7.

After their solid offense in the opening canto, Agape team captain David Zhang delivered the killer blows, scoring 17 of his 23 total points in the fourth. Eason Tang and Bobby Bao backed up Zhang after adding 17 and 10 points, respectively. Eddie Valdoz registered 6 points and Justin Mateo logged 5 in a losing effort for the Phoenix.

Agape marched to a 6-0 record after the rout, while NMIS fell to a 1-5 mark.

In other results, Seventh Day Adventist got a free win after Saipan Community School forfeited its match due to insufficient number of players. SDA recorded its first victory of the season after losing its first five matches, while SCS fell to a 1-5 slate.

With the first round of games in the books, ACS is perched atop the rankings and was followed by Mt, Carmel, SIS, Grace Christian Academy (3-2), SCS, SDA, and NMIS.

The league's second round will start on April 22. SDA will host MCS in a double-header, while NMIS will visit SIS.

BOYS DIVISION
First Game

MCS 27—Galang 11, Naraja 10, Borja 2, Cepeda 2, San Nicolas 2.

SIS 26—Mister 9, Nam 9, Lee 6, Casey 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-7, 19-9, 25-15, 27-26

Second Game

ACS 68 —Zhang 23, Tang 17, Bao 10, Jin 8, Dai 5, Liang 5

NMIS 17 — Valdoz 6, Mateo 5, Ralph 4, Pineda 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-7, 33-11, 47-13, 68-17

FALCONS

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error to take the lead. However, the Falcons countered at the bottom of the fourth with all but two of the batters at the top of the order making it home and Achilles getting his second run in the same inning after Damien Dela Cruz reached off a Braves' miscue to retake the lead, 15-13. The Falcons then had a chance to increase their lead when they loaded the bases, but Rollan Seidler struck out Marvin Cabrera to stop the bleeding for the Braves.

The Braves were back at bat at the top of the fifth, but managed to score only one run and had two runners stranded when Andre Iguel got the third strikeout, allowing the Falcons to hang on to a 15-14 lead. The Falcons went on to make it a 19-14 cushion when they recorded three earned runs and one unearned at the bottom of the fifth, putting more pressure to the Braves going into the top of the sixth.

To continue the game and remain in contention, the Braves must score at least five runs at the top of the last inning. They were four runs short, as only Willy Joe Lieto reach off a fielder's choice, while Iguel struck out Seidler and Fabio Norita to end the match.

Evangelista and Noah Iguel delivered three RBIs each for the Falcons with the former collecting four runs and the latter adding two. Xavier Magofna and Cruz had no RBIs, but each scored four runs.

Little Legals 14, JZ Twins 3

The Little Legals kept their unbeaten record in three games after defeating the JZ Twins.

Shortstop Albert Adriano went 3-for-4 at bat and recorded two runs, including a solo shot at the bottom of the third inning where the Little Legals began to control the match.

The game was tied after two and a half innings, 2-2, when Adriano's round-tripper broke the standoff and the Little Legals never looked back after that, as the defending champion bagged two more runs at the bottom of the third and added six in the fifth for the breakaway. Then in the sixth inning, Santiago Seman blasted a two-run single and also reached for their 14-2 advantage.

The JZ Twins registered their two runs (unearned) in the first and second inning and had to make at least three at the bottom of the fifth to foil the Little Legals' bid for an early win via 10-run mercy rule. Leadoff batter Kobe Reyes scored off Devin Yumul's base hit, giving the JZ Twins some hope, but that was it, as closer Greg Perez fanned the next two batters and after giving up a single to Devin Yumul, the former also struck out Frankie Sablan.

SOUTHERN

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the match, courtesy of Joyce's pair of goals and Itaas'second.

As for Southern United, it also leaned on its key player—Keisha Deleon Guerrero—to crush the hapless Matansa. Deleon Guerrero logged seven of Southern United's total goals, including six straight. She started her string of goals right in the third minute and she finished the half with four against only one from Matansa—off Barbara Peteru's conversion in the 28th minute.

Despite Southern United having control of the match, Deleon Guerrero was not done yet, as she knocked in back-to-back goals at the start of the second half. Mariana Castro also hit two straight goals before Deleon Guerrero closed out for the winning squad.

In other results in the division, MP United eased past Paire, 7-0.

Stella Lou McCallion powered MP United to its second win after making a hat trick. She scored in the fourth, 30th, and 50th minute. Lilian Podziewski contributed two, while Audrey Castro and Maury Zon Tybaco chipped in one each.

GIRLS U19
Kanoa 5, TanHoldings 2

Kanoa boosted its title bid in the division after keeping its perfect record following a win over TanHoldings last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Kanoa notched its sixth win—two more than the second-running MP United with only two matches left in the double-round robin contest.

Joyce fired three goals in the victory, while Francisco and Sue Ann Huevos also hit the board for the unbeaten team. Mia Carreon and Jenny Ann Capayas scored for TanHoldings.

MP United 7, Matansa 2

MP United got win No. 4 after dominating Matansa in the other match in the division.

Brittany Wally led MP United with her three goals. Wally got a lot of support from her teammates, as Guinevere Borja added two goals, while Anela Duenas and Katrina Costales had one each.

In contrast, only Peteru scored for Matansa with her goals in the 21st and 41st minute.

NMIFA Spring Youth League Standings
(As of April 14, 2019)

GIRLS U16 DIVISION

Teams	G	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Southern United	7	6	1	0	26	3	23	19
Kanoa	7	5	1	1	34	14	20	16
TanHoldings	7	3	3	1	19	13	6	12
MP United	7	2	2	3	17	13	4	8
Matansa	7	1	1	5	6	27	-21	4
Paire	7	0	0	7	8	40	-32	0

GIRLS U19 DIVISION

Kanoa	6	6	0	0	54	12	42	18
MP United	6	4	0	2	54	25	29	12
Southern United	5	3	0	2	18	27	-9	9
TanHoldings	6	1	0	5	10	26	-16	3
Matansa	5	0	0	5	5	51	-46	0

New deal makes Wilson highest-paid NFL player

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Sports

Trail Blazers go up 2-0 against Thunder

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Falcons win 'Battle of the North'

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Talaabwogh Falcons batter waits for the pitch during their game against the NSA Braves in the Majors division of the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Falcons downed the NSA Braves, 19-15, in a battle between the northern-based teams on island during the Majors division game in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The Falcons finished strong, scoring 13 runs in the last two innings, including 10 unearned to edge the Braves and get their second straight win after losing their season debut to the defending champions Kagman Little Legals.

Catcher Achilles Evangelista scored three out of the Falcons' 13 runs in the fourth and fifth inning, was 2-for-3 at bat, and had two RBIs in that stretch. He batted twice and reached two times, too at the bottom of the fourth inning, which started with the Falcons behind, 6-13, after the Braves broke the deadlock (6-6) with a seven-run top of the fourth.

Nick Taisacan had a two-run double at the top of the fourth inning for the Braves and their team got one more earned run, and two each off a passed and the Falcons'

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Naraja lifts Knights past Geckos

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Mount Carmel School foiled Saipan International School's comeback attempt after pulling off a 27-26 victory in the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League yesterday at the SIS court.

Leo Naraja hit the dagger for the Knights, as he sliced into the Geckos' defense and nailed the game-winning layup. Mt. Carmel had to rely on their starting point guard after the team squandered a double-digit lead in the fourth quarter.

Ahead at 25-15, the Knights' slowly lost control of the game, as the SIS went for the final push. Daniel Nam made a trey and banked in a teardrop to move the Geckos within 5, 20-25. Dylan Mister also scored back-to-back baskets, while Nam drained a 15-foot jumper to seize the lead, 26-25, with less than a minute left in the match.

With the game on the line, Naraja took over, as he dribbled his way past three SIS defenders for the go-ahead basket. After the Knights regained the lead, the Geckos were left with 15 seconds to draw up a play. SIS coach Rick Linkenhelt then sued for time to give in-

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ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Mt. Carmel School's Leo Naraja, center, drives against Saipan International defenders for the game-winning basket in the middle school match in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Geckos court in As Lito.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Southern United Football Club's Marinel Falalimpa, right, dribbles away from Matansa defenders during their girls U16 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Southern United, Kanoa in dogfight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Southern United Football Club and Kanoa Football Club are breathing down in each other's neck going into the homestretch of the double-round robin competition in the girls U16 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

Southern United clobbered Matansa FC, 9-1, in last Saturday's match at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville for the former's win No. 6 and the lead in the six-team field. At close second with five victories is Kanoa, which defeated TanHoldings, 5-2, in the other game in the division.

Three more playing weeks are left before the season champion is decided and Southern United and Kanoa are likely to remain in a dogfight the rest of the way. Southern will next face Paire on April 27 and then TanHoldings on May 3 before battling Kanoa in probably the division title-deciding game on May 10. Kanoa before dueling Southern will first square off against Matansa (April 27) and MP United (May 3).

Kanoa had its old reliables delivering in its victory over TanHoldings. Paulynn Joyce and Khristelle Itaas scored two goals apiece, while Shairmaine Francisco added one. Alyssa Mae Angeles recorded the twin goals for TanHoldings, as the team knotted the count at the break before Kanoa gained cushion at the resumption of

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